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PAUL JOHNSON
Why careless royal
talk costs reputations
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THE TIMES

No. 65,040

TUESDAY AUGUST 23 1994

Police stay silent over leak claims Palace calls: Princess in threat to sue

BY ANDREW PIERCE

THE Princess of Wales is considering legal action over allegations that she made a series of nuisance telephone calls to a married friend.

The threat came as Scotland Yard resisted growing demands from Tory and Labour MPs to hold an internal inquiry into how details of the police investigation into the calls were obtained by newspapers.

The Princess will consult Lord Mishcon, her lawyer, in the next few days over reports in the *News of the World* and other Sunday papers. She has denied in the *Daily Mail* that she had made the nuisance calls, to Oliver Hoare, a 48-year-old art dealer.

She admitted, however, that she had telephoned Mr Hoare at about the time his telephone was being tapped and that she believed she might have replaced the receiver when his wife answered. This, the *Mail* says, could have heightened the family's fears that they were receiving nuisance calls.

Last year the Princess began legal proceedings against Mirror Group Newspapers and the former owner of a West London gymnasium over the publication of photographs taken with a hidden camera while she was exercising. The case is due to be heard in February.

Lord Mishcon said that he had "no instructions at the moment" and declined to comment further. The Princess is reportedly torn over whether or not to resort to the courts for a second time.

The Home Office categorically denied reports that one of its ministers had discussed the case with Commander Robert Marsh, head of Scotland Yard's royalty protection squad. William Waldegrave's office also denied that Mr Waldegrave, the Agriculture Minister, who is a friend of both the Prince and Princess of Wales, had intervened.

The Metropolitan Police refused to discuss any aspects of the case. Scotland Yard had not begun an internal inquiry into the disclosure of the investigation, which was



Princess will see lawyer

'Somewhere, someone is going to make out that I am mad, that I am guilty by association, that the mud will stick'

The Princess quoted in the *Daily Mail*

'The Princess was in the habit of ringing Mr Hoare. It is possible that she would have replaced the receiver if his wife answered'

Richard Kay in the *Daily Mail*, August 22

closed in January after Mr Hoare withdrew his complaint. The Princess was not interviewed by any police officers.

Senior figures from across the political spectrum questioned the Princess's judgment in giving her version of events to the *Daily Mail* yesterday.

Lord McGregor of Durris, chairman of the Press Complaints Commission, said any complaint over the original stories would have to be weighed against her decision to talk to the *Mail*. "It would appear on the face of it that the Princess is not ill-disposed towards discussing the subject with newspaper reporters."

Hugo Vickers, the royal historian, said that the Princess had been forced to defend her reputation. "It shows what position she has been reduced to, that she feels obliged to act like a spy by having a clandestine meeting with a reporter."

"She could not summon him to Kensington Palace because she suspects it is bugged. I cannot help feeling very sorry

for her. She is out on a limb. She feels she has got no one to support her."

Sir Teddy Taylor, Tory MP for Southend East, said that Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, should carry out an investigation "as a matter of great urgency" into the source of the leak and whether or not money was paid for it.

Piers Morgan, editor of the *News of the World*, said that no money had changed hands. "We are not the only newspaper that has been chasing it. We just got the information first," he said.

The controversy has sparked calls for tighter press controls. The Heritage Department has been sitting on draft proposals to reform privacy regulations for more than two years. Stephen Dorrell, the Heritage Secretary, has taken a draft White Paper to study on his holiday.

Fatal attraction, page 2
Royal muddle, page 14
Paul Johnson and Diary, page 16



Strap-hanging: General Rose on the reopened tramways in Sarajevo yesterday

Sarajevo's trams running again

FROM JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO

TRAM cars rumbled through Sarajevo yesterday, for the first time since a series of Serb sniper attacks on passengers halted them two weeks ago.

Lieutenant-Gen Sir Michael Rose, the United Nations commander in Bosnia, joined passengers on a tram ride around the city yesterday and

said: "It is an important step for people in Sarajevo. We've been working on this for nearly a month."

For most of the war Sarajevo's public transportation system has not been used. When a ceasefire, backed by Nato, came into effect in February, the trams were started. Last

month Serb snipers made them a battlefield.

The tramline opening was made possible by the recent anti-sniping accord arranged by the UN and General Rose's journey was intended to highlight this rare positive step.

Rebels flee, page 10

Boost for recovery

The government warmly welcomed fresh evidence that Britain's recovery is a combination of accelerating growth with very low inflation.

Growth in the second quarter was revised up to 1 per cent, a healthy 3.7 per cent increase on a year ago. Page 21

Adams denial

Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein leader, yesterday said in answer to speculation of an imminent open-ended call to lay down arms in Northern Ireland that talk "that the IRA will declare a ceasefire is news to me and is unhelpful". Page 5

Plutonium threat

Israel has warned Germany that smuggled Russian plutonium was ending up in Iran. Austrian customs yesterday seized guiding systems made for American tanks and destined for Iran. Page 10

Olympics to keep disabled separate

BY JOHN GOODBODY, SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

THE controversial integration of disabled competitors and able-bodied athletes at the Commonwealth Games in Victoria will not be repeated at the Olympic Games in Atlanta in 1996.

The Olympic authorities have resisted lobbying by campaigners keen to see disabled athletes taking part in events alongside able-bodied competitors.

Instead a separate Paralympics will be held, which will start 12 days after the end of the Olympics. In 1992, Barcelona also held separate Paralympics, although there were two demonstration wheelchair events during the main Olympics.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) yesterday pointed out that since there will be no demonstration sports on the programme in 1996, disabled competitors would not be taking part in the games. Asked whether the

IOC would consider having a full programme of disabled events on the Games programme, a spokeswoman said: "Our reasoning is that for host cities the addition of disabled competitors would be too much in terms of numbers and administration."

Although the IOC has given its full support to disabled sports, it is trying to restrict the numbers at the games. Dr Adrian Whitson, president of the British Paralympic Association, said that the consensus at its conference last year was that the Paralympics should remain separate from the Olympics. "In Barcelona there were 3,000 competitors, and officials at the Paralympics and the organisers of the Olympics themselves are not going to find those extra places," he said. "With separate Paralympics, we do get a lot of publicity."

English gold, page 36

Titmus backs Atherton

Prod Titmus, the England selector, yesterday backed Michael Atherton as captain for the tour to Australia. He is already supported by two other selectors, Raymond Illingworth and Keith Fletcher. Page 40

Diary casts new light on newspaper allegations

IN HER *Daily Mail* interview the Princess gave details of her diary to try to disprove the allegations. The newspaper highlighted seven days from January 13, when tracing equipment was installed at Oliver Hoare's home. January 18: A call allegedly from the Princess's private line was recorded while she was at a lunch in Mayfair with Lady Stevens, wife of the newspaper proprietor Lord Stevens of Ludgate. Later the same day a call was recorded, reportedly from Kensington

Palace, four minutes after she had left for dinner in Eaton Square, Belgrave. January 18: A call from Kensington Palace at a time when the Princess was watching a Clint Eastwood film at the MGM cinema in Fulham Road, with her friend Catherine Somers. January 18: A telephone call was logged while she was having her hair done. She did not have her mobile telephone with her. Another call came as she was meeting Lord Mishcon, her lawyer.

Dig uncovers lost chapel of St Columba

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT



An early portrayal of St Columba

ARCHAEOLOGISTS excavating on the Hebridean island of Canna have uncovered the remains of the lost chapel of St Columba, one of the most important early Christian sites in Scotland. The location of the chapel, which may date from Columba's visits to the island in 640, was lost after the 1850s when many of the inhabitants of Canna were evicted in the Highland Clearances. A team from the University of Bradford, led by Dr John Hunter, has unearthed a stone building measuring 20 metres by six metres, the central axis of which is aligned to a carved stone cross which has stood on Canna since Viking times.

Dr Hunter says his team made a geophysical survey of the area and sank exploratory trenches which revealed a wall and a probable medieval graveyard. The flagging of an earlier chapel floor had been used as its foundations. The excavation also disclosed that St Columba's chapel had been built on the site of a large prehistoric cairn and that numerous graves had been disturbed during its construction.

"We've found the walls of the chapel and we also found some pottery which has yet to be dated. There were a lot of human remains incorporated into the foundations, all disarticulated. These have been recorded and reburied," Dr Hunter said. "It is an exciting find. My own view is that it may have been a place of pilgrimage. It was certainly a very important religious focus over the centuries. Canna was already a Christian centre by the 7th century and there were two monasteries."

St Columba, the founder of Christianity in Scotland, is reported in Adamnan's *Life of Columba* to have visited the Island of Hinba at least once. Historians believe that Hinba is Canna and Adamnan writes that the saint had a revelation of spiritual secrets in a house there.

Lost chapel, page 6
Leading article, page 17

US arms cutback to hit British firms

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THE Clinton Administration has ordered America's armed forces to make plans to end or reduce new weapons programmes, sending shock waves through the Pentagon and defence industries.

The suggested post-Cold War budget reductions would also affect British defence contractors working on US projects and jeopardise the Army's interest in buying Comanche light attack helicopters, one of the targeted programmes.

In a memo to Pentagon planners, John Deutch, the Deputy Defence Secretary, ordered the US military to make plans for killing the Comanche, along with an air-to-ground missile that can be launched from a safe distance, an advanced field artillery system, and the Marines' V-22 Osprey which can fly like a plane and land like a helicopter, and for which the British firm Lucas Industries is a subcontractor.

Mr Deutch also told the Air Force to be prepared for a four-year delay in delivery of the F22 advanced Stealth fighter, supposedly a mainstay of the line of attack early next century. The Navy must be ready to slow the production rate for destroyers and attack submarines. A badly-needed electronic system for pilot training could be discarded or severely trimmed.

Last month, the US government's watchdog General Accounting Office said the defence budget would fall short over the next five years by \$150 billion (£100 billion). Mr Deutch said shifting resources from new weapons would enable the armed forces to have a pay increase.

British defence officials in Washington saw one ray of light: British firms could pick up business if the US decides that cheaper equipment can be found elsewhere.

Clinton triumphant, page 11

Reforms 'will add 3p to pint of milk'

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE price of a doorstep pint could go up by 3p and cheese by 18p per cent in the biggest ever reform of the dairy industry, farmers said yesterday.

The Dairy Trade Federation, which has 300 member companies, also said that thousands of jobs were threatened as a result of the Government's "mis-handling" of the deregulation of the £7 billion milk industry.

The federation announced it was seeking a judicial review of the scheme under which Britain's 30,000 dairy farmers will be free to sell milk to



The sign of milk quality

the highest bidder from November 1, when the Milk Marketing Board is replaced by Milk Marque, a voluntary producers' co-operative which has already signed up 65 per cent of dairy farmers in England and Wales.

The federation says Milk Marque is abusing its dominant position to bid up prices to levels which dairy companies could not afford.

William Waldegrave, the Agriculture Minister, will meet representatives of the dairy industry on Thursday. He said he had "not ruled out" a reference of the deregulation scheme to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

New pricing, page 21

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'He is very successful, very skilled. He has always had nice things'

Art dealer 'was a go-between in the Wales's marriage'

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE man at the heart of the latest row involving the Princess of Wales and the silent telephone calls is Oliver Hoare, one of the world's most respected dealers of Islamic art.

Although much has been made of Mr Hoare's friendship with the Princess, the Prince of Wales has also been his close friend, partly through a shared interest in art. Mr Hoare, an old Etonian who is married to the society beauty Diane de Waldner, is said to have acted as a go-between in the Wales's marriage; he is, however, reported to have organised dinner parties with the Prince and Camilla Parker Bowles as guests of honour.

There are also family ties with the royal family: Mr Hoare's mother-in-law is Baroness Louise de Waldner, whose friends include Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and the Prince. Indeed, the Prince convalesced at the baroness's chateau after he broke his arm four years ago playing polo. Moreover, Mr Hoare's social set includes Lucia Flecha de Lima, wife of the former Brazilian ambassador to London, also a friend of the Princess of Wales.

The Hoares, who have two children, Tristen, 17, and Olivia, 12, live in a large house in one of Chelsea's most fashionable streets.

Despite high-profile friends and family, Mr Hoare is

extremely low-profile, even within art circles. His friendship with the Princess is described as close but that he was no more than the perfect escort. Both also share a passion for ballet.

William Robinson, director of the Islamic department at Christie's, said: "London is the biggest centre worldwide for Islamic art, and Oliver Hoare is one of the leading players." However much dealers tend to grab any opportunity to blith

He has always been charming and enchanting. He does not deserve what is happening?

about their rivals, those in the Islamic field were yesterday unanimous in praising Mr Hoare. Few, however, were prepared to be named.

One dealer said: "He is very successful, skilled and knowledgeable. He has always had nice things... He has always struck me as someone who cares quite a lot for his field." Another said that in a murky world, in which some dealers have few scruples about selling works of dubious origin or fakes, he is a charming, trustworthy man.

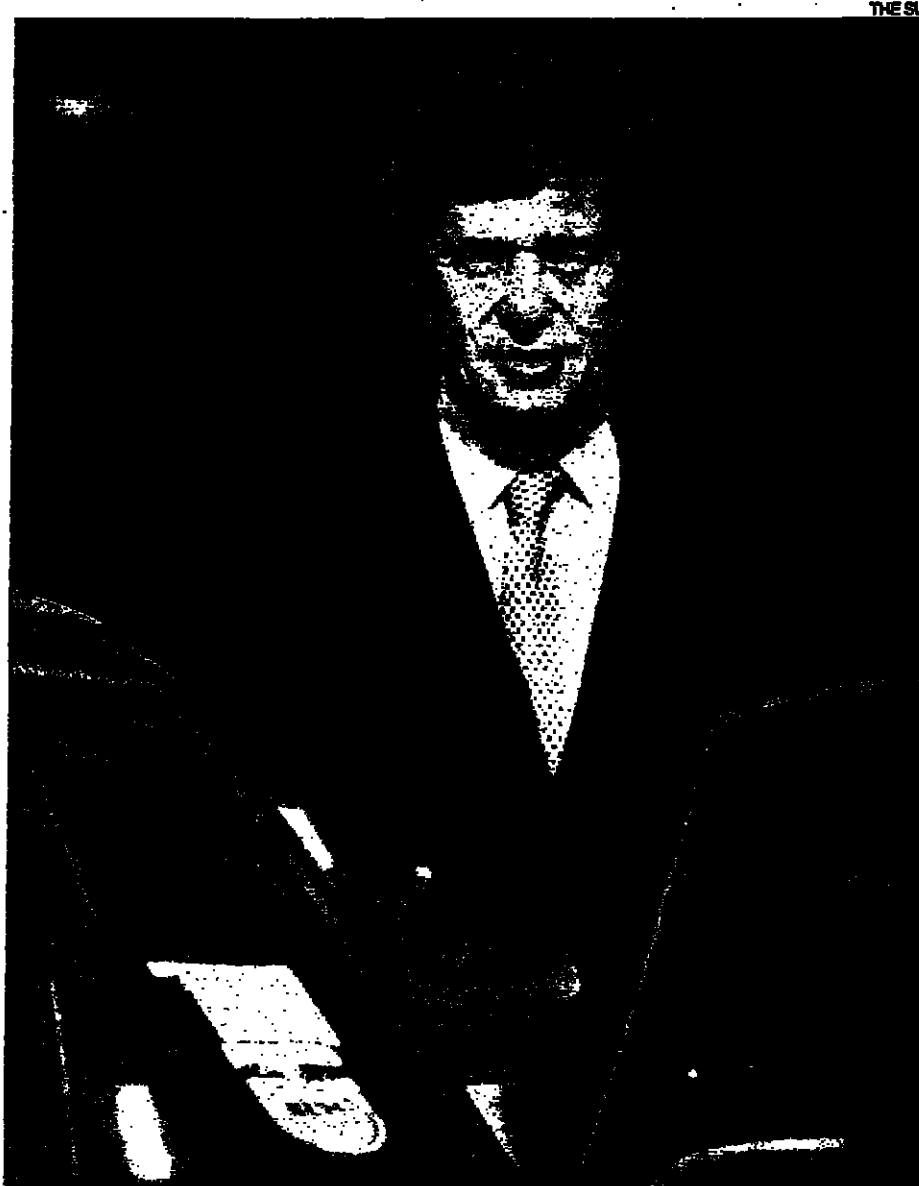
Brian Sewell, art critic of

The Evening Standard, said: "He has always been charming and enchanting. It is not an acquired social grace. I have seen him being as charming... to a dustman as to the grandes of the art world... He does not deserve what is happening. He has extraordinary taste and flair."

Mr Hoare began his career on the front counter at Christie's before moving into the Islamic art department. He left in 1976 to set up the Ahuan gallery in Belgravia with an American partner. His clients are said to include some of the most illustrious collectors.

This is not the first time that Mr Hoare has been the victim of unwanted attention: in 1985, thieves broke into his gallery and took a large number of items, including manuscripts and jewellery, dating from the 1st to 12th centuries. Constance Lowenthal, of the New York International Foundation for Art Research — with whose magazine the stolen items were registered — said: "The night it happened, the gallery had had a visit... from the Prince of Wales, so they had removed some of the vitrines. When the police dusted for finger-prints, they found a marvellous set of prints of Charles all over the place."

Inquiry, page 1
Right royal middle, page 14
Paul Johnson, page 16
Diary, page 16



Oliver Hoare, who was no more than the perfect escort to the Princess

Authors engage in battle royal

BY ANDREW PIERCE

THE marriage of the Prince and Princess of Wales will come under the spotlight again later this year when their private and public lives will be dissected in two rival books.

Jonathan Dimbleby, in whose television documentary the Prince admitted adultery, is publishing *The Prince of Wales: A Biography*.

However, Mr Dimbleby has been upstaged by Andrew Morton, author of *Diana: Her True Story*, which first reported the breakdown of the royal marriage.

Mr Morton, who earned £4.5 million from his first book, which was translated into 27 languages, has written

Diana: Her New Life, which chronicles the Princess's struggle to become her own woman since the marriage break-up. News of the sequel was disclosed only last week, and its publication is timed to coincide with Mr Dimbleby's offering in early November.

Now, a third author may enter the fray. Richard Kay, of the *Daily Mail*, who yesterday published an interview with the Princess of Wales in which she denied she was responsible for the nuisance telephone calls to Oliver Hoare, is considering several lucrative publishing offers.

Mr Kay, who clearly enjoys the confidence of the Princess, has been offered a six-figure

sum to write the definitive version of her story. He received two telegrams yesterday offering him publishing deals.

Mr Dimbleby, contrary to some reports, has not completed the 500-page biography which will be published on November 3. He is said to be agonising over how to handle the sensitive subject of the Princess's relationship with Mrs Camilla Parker-Bowles.

Christopher Sinclair-Stevenson, editor-in-chief of Reed Books, said: "I am absolutely convinced that Andrew Morton will enjoy a clean sweep. Jonathan Dimbleby's book is likely to be respectful so people will be less inclined to buy it."



The Princess of Wales yesterday. She and Mr Hoare share a passion for ballet

Labour challenge on 'plans to sell NHS'

Labour yesterday challenged the Government to "come clean" over claims that there were plans to sell off the National Health Service to private firms. Writing in *The Independent*, Virginia Bottomley, the Health Secretary, had highlighted the changes taking place in the health service under the Conservatives.

David Blunkett, the shadow Health Secretary, remarked: "Claims of savings of a few million pounds by Mrs Bottomley as a result of her reforms cannot be treated seriously." Mr Blunkett said that the Government had "wasted billions of pounds in setting up the new network of competitive trusts and introducing the NHS changes. Extra bureaucracy, more image-making and the increase in company cars have all cost the taxpayer £2 billion and left patient care starved of funds. Now that Mrs Bottomley is back at her desk, she might also explain what exactly her policy on selling off the NHS to the highest bidder is."

Mrs Bottomley had written that the aim of introducing trusts and GP fundholders was to replace NHS command and control structures with a "local dynamic".

'Witches' vicar to retire

A vicar who said on television that women priests were witches who should be burned at the stake is taking early retirement. The Rev Anthony Kennedy, 62, of Holbeach, Lincolnshire, will leave at the end of the month. Mr Kennedy said he was retiring on health grounds and had not been put under pressure to leave.

Emmerdale star dies

Martin Dale, who played Sgt Ian MacArthur in the ITV series *Emmerdale*, has died of cancer in hospital in Wakefield, West Yorkshire. Dale, who played the village policeman for 14 years, had taken time off recently to undergo a triple heart bypass operation. He was in his sixties and leaves a wife and five children.

Church officer defects

A senior Church of England press officer has become a member of the Orthodox church, it was disclosed last night. Gordon Dailien leaves his job as communications officer for the Southwark diocese to become a freelance writer at the end of this week. A spokeswoman said his defection was not connected to the decision to ordain women priests.

Cahill funeral warning

Hundreds of mourners at the funeral in Dublin yesterday of Martin Cahill, 45, shot by the IRA, were warned that the way of violence could lead only to death. Father Jim Caffrey, parish priest, said that violence was "a way of hatred, fear and revenge". To break the cycle of violence was not the way of the coward, but of the truly strong, he said.

V&A rejects sharing

THE Victoria & Albert Museum has rejected a suggestion that Canova's *The Three Graces* be shared between the Getty Museum in California and British galleries. It was responding to a suggestion in *The Times* by Sir Hugh Leggat, a former Museums and Galleries Commissioner. He proposed that it could be swapped between the two countries every seven years to avoid legal proceedings by the owners. Fine Art Investment and Display, and the Getty Museum against the British Government. A spokeswoman for the V&A said: "Our ideal is that it stays in this country."

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Minister to meet Remploy over jobs

EMPLOYMENT Minister Phillip Oppenheim will meet disabled employers Remploy tomorrow to discuss the row over the axing of special status for handicapped workers.

However, there are no plans for the company's chief executive Tony Withey and other officials to meet Employment Secretary Michael Portillo.

The meeting is the first direct contact between the company, which employs 8,600 disabled workers in 95 factories around Britain, and the Government since the dispute erupted more than a week ago.

Mr Portillo insists that a European Commission directive makes illegal the Priority Suppliers Scheme, which gave firms employing large numbers of disabled people some advantages in bidding for Government work. But EC officials have been outspoken in their criticism of his decision to axe the disabled scheme without referring to them because it was not intended to hurt disabled workers.

The talks came as Remploy workers were being balloted on strike action after rejecting a 2.5 per cent pay offer. Remploy condemned the move by the GMB union as "opportunistic" and designed to scare the workforce.

The union claimed the company's offer was linked to a cut in sick leave and changes in working patterns which could mean a 12-hour day without overtime pay.

But Remploy hit back: "The offer made to employees is the best possible in a difficult trading situation. It does not contain any proposals about shift working or working hours. Neither are there plans to introduce a 12-hour day without overtime."

"There is no reduction being made in sick pay. We are seeking only to reduce absence levels as these run at 12 per cent."

The deadline for the postal ballot is September 8. The result is expected during the TUC annual conference.

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It is advisable to seek independent medical advice before undergoing fertility treatment.

Parents win back £15,000 loan but lose a daughter

By A Staff Reporter

AN elderly couple who took their daughter and son-in-law to court over a loan yesterday won the return of £15,000 at the price of a family rift.

Les Westwood, 81, a retired newspaper compositor, and his wife Irene, who were forced to sell shares and their holiday caravan when the bank called in a loan for which they acted as guarantors, are now to get the money back.

Their daughter Deborah Valentine and her husband Ronald, who send their son to private school and holiday in the south of France, were ordered to pay back the money following a brief hearing at Brighton County Court yesterday.

Judge Hamerton ordered they should pay back £13,023 of the outstanding loan, £852 interest on the money and £290 damages that would be incurred buying the shares back.

The Westwoods agreed to act as guarantors for a loan to allow the Valentines to buy into a garage business when Mr Valentine lost his job as a BAA transport manager at Heathrow Airport.

After the hearing the rift between the two couples caused by the financial arrangement was clear. Mr Westwood, of Littlehampton, West Sussex, said his son-in-law had promised to remortgage their £200,000 home in Warnham, West Sussex, to raise the money, but failed to do so.

"It was clear to me that she did not give two hoots about what she had promised or what the consequences to my wife and I might be."

"I am happy about the fact that it is all over. But I am sad that it has broken up a family," Mr Westwood said.

His son Simon said: "I don't know why they [the Valentines] are like that but they are a greedy, penny-pinching couple. I have no sympathy for them at all."

"All this has been a terrible strain for my parents when they should have been relaxing into retirement."

Mrs Westwood, 64, a former legal secretary, said: "You



The Westwoods: "feel like the guilty party"



The Valentines: parents "like vultures" in court

work hard to build up a nest egg. You get a cold feeling in your heart when it's gone. You wonder how you are going to cope.

"The rest of the family have borrowed money, but they have always paid it back."

"I feel sad. It is a terrible thing when you have got to take your own daughter to court. It has gone too far for a reconciliation now. There has been not one word of remorse or regret from them. It makes you feel as if you are the guilty party."

Mrs Valentine, 41, a magazine editor for Reed International, said: "The money was borrowed in good faith. I am amazed it has turned out like this. In court they were like vultures coming in for rich pickings."

"We are not penny-pinching. I am not a greedy person. I am just trying to do the best

for my family. If they were a decent family they would have got behind us."

"My husband and I are not bad people. Just two people trying to secure a stable home without fear of the future for our children."

"We have never asked anyone for anything in our lives before but there comes a time in everyone's lives when we need help," she said.

Mrs Valentine said they always intended to repay the money, but needed time for her husband to get back on his feet. "It has not been paid back because the business has not taken off as well as we thought."

It is distressing enough to be ostracised from one's family without this endurance. The car is on finance and was indeed re-financed last year to pay my parents back £3,000," Mrs Valentine said.

Briton held in Bangkok after drug tip-off

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A BRITON arrested in a Bangkok hotel after the alleged discovery of a cache of heroin worth more than £100,000 is expected to plead guilty to trafficking charges.

Matthew Jones, 24, a former computer engineer from Hatfield, Hertfordshire, told a news conference at which four plastic-wrapped packets of the drug were produced that he intended to post it abroad.

Asked how he would plead to charges of possession with intent to sell 1.8kg of heroin, he said: "Guilty, I suppose." Mr Jones added that Thai police had told him he had been informed on "It was obviously a tip-off. I had only just brought it into the room that day."

He said he had been living in Thailand for several years, most of the time in Bangkok, and it was the first time he had been involved with drugs. Mr Jones, who has taught English there part-time, said he was aware of the sentence he faced.

Heroin trafficking carries the death penalty in Thailand but the sentence for foreigners is invariably commuted to a long prison term.

Mr Jones, who will appear in court on Thursday, was paraded before journalists in handcuffs, wearing a T-shirt and tracksuit trousers, three days after his arrest at a budget hotel.

In a separate case, a Swedish woman was arrested at Bangkok airport late on Saturday after she was found with 7.5kg of heroin in her luggage.



Matthew Jones is paraded with four packets of heroin in Bangkok yesterday

Attack on woman in her home 'was sexual'

By LIN JENKINS

THE attack on a stage manager who was bludgeoned to death at her home was sexually motivated, the police said yesterday.

Caroline Williams, 29, put up a desperate struggle against the violent attack by an assailant wielding a heavy instrument, later found in her south London home by police. She died of head injuries.

Two men seen acting suspiciously outside the house in Surrey Quays, Rotherhithe, and loitering in an adjoining alleyway might have stalked and killed Mrs Williams.

Detective Superintendent Gordon King said Mrs Williams kept her back door open in hot weather and she had done so on Saturday when the last person to talk to her was her father on the telephone during the morning. There was no sign of forced entry.

"This was an appalling and violent attack on a respectable woman in her own home, an attack which was almost certainly sexually motivated," he said.

A post-mortem examination carried out yesterday found severe injuries where Mrs Williams had sought to protect herself. Further tests are necessary to determine whether she was raped.

"She was alive when her father phoned her and did not have a care in the world. Her husband phoned at about 3pm but there was no answer and he left a message on the machine."

Mr King said the two men were seen separately within about an hour of one another. One man was seen that afternoon jumping up and down looking over the back fence of the Williams's house. A second man was seen at lunchtime standing on a rock looking into the garden.

"Two different men at roughly the same time is an incredible coincidence and I have to consider the possibility they were acting in concert," Mr King said.

Mrs Williams, who last worked as an assistant stage manager at the Duke of York theatre in London's West End during the production of *Oleanna*, was found by her husband Tim when he returned early on Sunday from a week working in Plymouth.

Pregnant clerk's sentence alarms Nacro

By RICHARD DUCE

A JUDGE was last night criticised for jailing a pregnant former bank clerk who stole from her employers to meet pressing debts and then repaid the money before the theft was discovered.

After Rebecca Gillon, 28, was jailed for 21 days by Winchester Crown Court, a spokeswoman for the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders said: "A woman who is pregnant and does not pose a threat to the community should not be put in prison."

The court was told that Gillon stole £380 from Barclays Bank in Basingstoke, Hampshire, after her husband's business started to fail and she became worried about paying the mortgage.

The probation service recommended that Gillon should be given a suspended sentence, but the judge, Recorder Jeremy Storey, said the offence warranted an immediate jail term. "I accept you took the money to keep a roof over your head but other people in a similar position would be appalled if they knew someone was taking money from Barclays Bank." A

community service or probation order for Gillon was deemed to be inappropriate because she had moved to a remote area of Northumbria. Gillon was jailed on the day that Nacro published a report stating that too many women were sent to prison when an alternative sentence was available.

Gillon, of Lesbury, Northumberland, admitted two offences of theft in December 1991 and February 1993. She also admitted false accounting to cover up the theft. She asked for three other offences of false accounting to be considered.

Sex attacker struck while on parole

A SEX offender who attacked four schoolgirls on the day he was released early from prison, on parole, was jailed for another four years yesterday.

Andrew Withey, 34, was freed 15 months before the end of a four-year sentence but launched the first sex attack within an hour of arriving back in his home town in Wales.

Merthyr Tydfil Crown Court was told that Withey, the father of five children, left Channingswood Prison in Evesham at 9am on March 31 and by 5.15pm had arrived in Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan, and attacked a girl he had seen at a bus stop. He went on to attack three more schoolgirls in the next three hours.

Withey admitted three charges of indecent assault and one of assault. Judge Frederick Evans said: "There is a persistence in your conduct which makes these offences very serious indeed."

Withey was released 15 months early from a four-year sentence for burglary and assault. He had previous convictions for assault, criminal damage, dishonesty and unlawful sex.

The mother of one of his victims attacked the prison authorities for releasing him early. She said: "How much proof do they need that this man is dangerous? Let's hope four years means four years this time."



Jessica, ten months, is carried from the wreckage

Family escape as truck crashes into cottage

A DRIVER received serious leg injuries yesterday after his 32-tonne tipper truck went out of control and ploughed into a cottage.

Eddy West, 26, from Leydown, Isle of Sheppey, had to be cut out of the cab by firemen and was taken to hospital in Maidstone.

Walter and Ivy Grasson, the owners of the cottage in Seal, Kent were upstairs at the time of the crash with their ten-month-old granddaughter Jessica but escaped injury.

The accident is thought to have happened when one of a convoy of three tipper trucks

braked to avoid hitting a car. The second went into the back of the first truck and then crashed into the cottage, which Mr Grasson had converted into flats for his son and daughter-in-law.

Mr Grasson, a commercial motor fitter, said: "This road is far too narrow for lorries. There is not enough room for them to pass each other. You constantly hear them banging their mirrors together as they pass."

Builders were called in to shore up the house before the truck could be pulled from the rubble.

Witness in murder trial jailed

A PROSECUTION witness in a murder trial was jailed for 28 days by an Old Bailey judge yesterday for refusing to give evidence because he feared reprisals.

Ian Young, 24, claimed he had been the victim of a terror campaign. The court was told that he had been beaten up and received threatening telephone calls in the weeks leading up to the trial.

He said he was also worried about the safety of his girlfriend and their two young children. "They told me I was a grass and knew where I lived," he told the court.

Young, of Deal, Kent, who witnessed a fatal stabbing, was charged with contempt of court after failing to give evidence.

Judge Grigson told him: "Your evidence could have been of great importance. It is your duty to go to the police and allow them to take the necessary steps to protect you and your family."

Young left home early in the morning of the first day of the trial. While he was in hiding he saw coverage of the trial and realised the importance of what he had done. He gave himself up to police last month after the trial had finished.

Young was due to give evidence in the trial of Andrew Dean, who was jailed for life last month for stabbing to death John White, 22, at a nightclub in Dover.

Monk missing in Rwanda feared dead

A BRITISH monk missing in Rwanda since late June is now thought to have been killed by government troops soon after entering the country, his Roman Catholic order said yesterday.

The order, the Marist Brothers, criticised the Foreign Office for a "half-hearted" reaction to its plea for help, and called for an independent inquiry team to be sent to the area where they believe Chris Mannion met his death.

Brother Chris, 43, who comes from Darlington, Co Durham, is thought to have died on July 1 with another Marist monk, Brother Joseph Rustisapfiki, 41, a Hutu and Rwandan national, the order reported. It said that its own investigations had produced "reliable reports" from local people that in an attempt to cover up the killings, the car in which the

two monks were travelling was set on fire with Brother Joseph's body inside, while Brother Chris's body was buried nearby.

Brother Chris, based at the order's headquarters in Rome, was in Rwanda to negotiate the release of two Tutsi members of the order being held by the former Rwanda government.

The Marists had appealed for help from the Foreign Office, but Brother Ronald McEwan, head of the order in Britain, said: "I'm very disappointed with the response we've got. Tony Baldry, undersecretary of state for consular services, sent us a letter asking for pictures of Chris - which we had already sent some time ago."

"Their search seems to be on the lines that if they come across him on the beach or the marketplace, they would let us

know. They can't seem to tell of any effective strategy for their search, and it all seems half-hearted."

Brother Chris entered Rwanda on June 29 in response to a call from the then government - which was holding two Tutsi members of the order - for negotiations with a headquarters official.

A statement last night from Vicar General Sean Sammon, based in Rome, said: "There is still a chance that Chris is being held in a detention centre. If so, I ask the Kigali government to release him so that we can bring this nightmare to an end." But in Britain, fellow-Marists were far less optimistic that he would yet be found alive. "We have been told this by reliable sources, and all the evidence points to him not being held a hostage," Brother Ronald said.

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TO PLAY, tune in to Countdown on Channel 4 at 4.30pm today and you have six chances of winning or sharing the daily £500 TV prize. In each of the six rounds where letters are drawn on TV, a contestant will select nine letters. As the letters appear on screen you should check them against the eight letters printed for the same TV round at the top of your game card (ie, by excluding the rounds where numbers are drawn). Round 5 on TV will equate to word Round 4 on your card. If you can match all eight letters, in any one round, in any order, you have won that round and can claim a share of today's £500 daily prize money. NB If you have the same letter repeated in any one row on your card, it can only be crossed off if that letter appears the same number of times on that TV round.

you when you phone. If there is more than one valid claim, the prize money will be divided equally among the winners. In the event of no valid claims, today's prize will be added to tomorrow's prize money.

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THE TIMES

Today's Vowels
Round 1: I I A I
Round 2: I E E
Round 3: E O U E
Round 4: E E U
Round 5: O O E A
Target Number: 36

which include either five or six consonants. Printed above are a selection of vowels. These vowels should be written on your game card in the spaces provided in each round. Rearrange the nine letters in each round to form five words, (using as many letters as possible) and write your solution in the empty boxes on your game card.

Now, add up the total number of letters used to create your five words. If the total equals or is greater than the target number printed above, you can claim. In the event of more than one person

equalling today's target number, the person with the highest score wins the £500 daily prize.

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between 5pm and 8pm today. No claims will be accepted outside these hours. You must have your game card with you when you telephone. If you must have your card today, ask your newsagent, or phone 071-867 0404, 9am to 5pm.

FOR the purpose of judging, *The Concise Oxford Dictionary* — New Edition for the 1990s will be the sole reference, and the rules for Count-



Countdowners: Richard Whiteley, Carol Vorderman

'Countdown has something special: the English language'

Richard Whiteley on the secret of his Channel 4 show's success

When Channel 4 went on air for the first time, in 1982, the programme chosen to take independent broadcasting into a new era was a funny little quiz show called *Countdown*. Twelve years and more than 1,500 editions later, it is regularly Channel 4's highest-rating show and attracts an average of four million viewers to draw their curtains, put their feet up, and plug themselves in every weekday afternoon at half-past four.

It was an unlikely success. There were no computer graphics, clever gizmos, big names, glittering prizes, or even quiz questions with

special: the English language. Not only do we have one of the richest languages on earth but we have an enormous enthusiasm for playing with it. Crosswords, Scrabble, *Call My Bluff* are all integral to the culture, and it is fitting that *The Times*, with its own famous crossword and Philip Howard's "Word-Watching", should be the place where *Countdown* goes into print for the first time.

Naturally enough, since the show is responsible for drawing so much attention to the formation and spelling of words, we have come to be seen by our viewers as an arbiter of the language. If our resident lexicographer from the Oxford University Press, who passes daily judgment from "Dictionary Corner", should disallow a word someone recognises, all telephone hell breaks loose. "You disallowed 'scrobbit'!" they cry. "Let me tell you that I have been scrobbiting, man and boy, since 1937... and my father scrobbit before me. All this 'guzzumping' and 'interfacing', while good old English words are being neglected... you should be ashamed of yourselves."

People often forget that the dictionary, like the language itself, is a living thing. But watching straight-faced contestants produce bizarre-sounding words dredged from the silt of time is what makes *Countdown* so fascinating. And it is why it will continue to reflect the shifting tide of English, long after the scrobbiters are gone.

Just a few letters on tiles, stuck to a magnetic board...

MoD man flies in to apologise over letter

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE Ministry of Defence was forced to apologise to an industrial tribunal yesterday for losing a letter vital to the hearing of a lance corporal sacked by the Army for becoming pregnant.

Janet Booth, 33, of Wrose, West Yorkshire, was awarded £25,492 in compensation yesterday by the tribunal in Leeds.

The hearing began in January but was delayed when ministry officials lost a document notifying them of the date for the reconvened hearing when they moved offices. The ministry then failed to send a representative on August 2.

Fred Griffin, the official dealing with the spate of sex discrimination claims against the MoD, flew from London to apologise. He told the hearing: "It was an honest mistake. We are very sorry. The file was mislaid arising from the move. I therefore assumed wrongly that it was with Treasury solicitors."

"Once the true horror of the situation was revealed it was found two days later. It had been placed in a low priority file. Steps have been taken to tighten procedures so such a regrettable incident doesn't happen again."

Mrs Booth, a former lance corporal was sacked on February 5, 1986, from her switchboard operator post in Rheindahlen, Germany. She now has an eight-year-old daughter and works as a telephonist in Bradford.

Douglas Harrison, her counsel, said: "Mrs Booth is pleased that she has some compensation at long last after waiting many, many months. But she is frustrated she has had to wait so long partly due to the inefficiency of the Ministry of Defence."

"They also failed to enter decent and reasonable negotiations on the matter," Keith Morton, the ministry's solicitor, further apologised to the tribunal: "It was an error and plainly one that shouldn't have occurred. I apologise unreservedly on the respondent's behalf."

He agreed to pay £500 for wasting time to the solicitor but added the tribunal could not make the ministry pay towards its own costs.

Husband describes raider who killed wife

POLICE hunting the killers of Bernadette Wallace, the woman stabbed to death seven weeks after moving to Australia with her family, yesterday issued a likeness of one of the suspects.

The image of one of the two men was released after detectives spoke to Mrs Wallace's husband Stephen, who is recovering in hospital from stomach wounds he suffered when burglars knifed the couple at their Sydney home.

Mrs Wallace, 35, from Hull, and Australian-born Mr Wallace, also 35, who grew up in Britain, were attacked when they disturbed the raiders at their house in North Rocks.

Mr Wallace's condition was yesterday said to be stable and improving. Their children, Claire, 8, and Andrew, 3, who slept through the attack,



Sketch of the suspect issued by Sydney police

which happened in the early hours of Saturday, were staying with friends of the family.

Police said the suspect was white, aged between 17 and 23, about 6ft tall, of medium build with short blond hair. He was wearing a black T-shirt with a motif on the front. A second man was described only as being slightly taller than his accomplice.

Mr Wallace reportedly told police that he and his wife were woken just before dawn on Saturday by the sound of their garage door being opened. They then heard sounds inside the house.

Mrs Wallace was the first down the stairs and tackled the two men as her husband raced to help her. In the struggle a knife was plunged into her chest and she fell to the floor. After stabbing Mr Wallace in the body and neck the intruders turned and fled.

IRA blamed for bin bomb

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE last night blamed the IRA for planting a bomb that caused disruption for motorists and shoppers in Regent Street, central London.

The device was discovered in a litter bin outside the Laura Ashley shop after police received a coded telephone message warning that a bomb had been planted. The device was defused by explosives experts after the area was cleared of traffic, shoppers and tourists.

Police received a coded message at 11.25am worded in the "usual vague way", suggesting that devices had been planted in Regent Street and Oxford Street, Commander Tony Rowe, head of central

London operations, said. Two other suspect packages found in litter bins turned out to be harmless.

Commander Rowe said that the coded warnings bore the hallmarks of the IRA. "We have once again been subjected to a situation which caused massive inconvenience to shoppers, tourists and people working in the area," he said.

"All of these people have been put in unnecessary danger, including my officers. This makes me very angry as a police officer and as a Londoner."

Yesterday's incident occurred as Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Féin, dismissed speculation the IRA was

about to call a ceasefire. If the IRA is intending to call a ceasefire it may want to mount a series of attacks in Britain to indicate to its supporters that it is ending hostilities from a position of strength. It would also send a message to the British Government that it has the capacity to renew its campaign in the event of little political progress being made.

Nine days ago bombers struck the resorts of Brighton and Bognor Regis, concealing devices in hired bikes. The Bognor Regis bomb exploded, damaging premises in a shopping precinct, but the Brighton device was defused. There were no injuries.

Men seek sanctuary from the rat race

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

INCREASING numbers of young men are opting out of the rat race to become Benedictine monks, according to a senior priest at one of the biggest monastic communities in Britain.

The number of monks in training at Ampleforth Abbey in North Yorkshire has tripled during the past decade, it was disclosed yesterday.

Ampleforth, where Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, was once abbot, has 25 men preparing for the monastic life, and a community of 100 monks.

The Catholic Church has about 12,000 monks and nuns in England and Wales. There are a further 1,200 in Church of England monasteries and convents. In 1989, the number of men who entered the monastic life in the Catholic Church nationwide was 52. In 1990 the figure remained the same, but increased to 55 in 1991. However, there was a fall to 40 in 1993. A spokeswoman for the Catholic Church said the increase at Ampleforth could be a regional blip.

Training for the monastic life generally takes between four and ten years and is based around the principles of solitude, silence and prayer. The monastic traditions of obedience and celibacy go back to the early Church.

At Ampleforth, some of the monks have given up the chance of lucrative careers. Fr Justin Price, prior of Ampleforth, said: "More and more people are looking for something spiritual in life. They are looking for a satisfaction they don't find even in very rewarding and demanding jobs. People come here to lead a really solid community life, devoted to prayer, sacrifice and the love of God and other people."

"We stand out here as a great contrast to ordinary life. The essential values hold solid compared with a society in flux, where the passing fashions grab people's attentions for a short time. We show that there is a meaning in life and a useful purpose."

Chess prodigy wants a sponsor

By RAYMOND KEENE AND CATHERINE MILTON

BRITAIN'S brightest chess hope since Nigel Short, 10-year-old Luke McShane, is looking for a sponsor to pay for the travel and coaching expenses which are proving to be the price of success.

Luke, from Clapham, south London, this week became the youngest British player ever to draw with a grandmaster and is hoping to represent Britain in an international tournament next year.

Luke's father, Rod McShane, a freelance journalist, said: "Luke needs a lot of money for travel and coaching. Next July we hope he will be selected to represent England in the junior world championship in Brazil."

Last night at the Lloyd's Bank Masters in London, Luke played Marcin Kaminski, a Polish international master. Officials said Luke's achievements surpassed those of the 10-year-old Nigel Short.

Luke learnt the game from his grandfather, Lionel Selway, who recognised the boy's aptitude after being soundly beaten by his grandson. His success at this year's



Luke McShane, aged 10, in action yesterday

tournament will not interfere with his holiday. On Friday Luke plans to leave after six rounds of the ten-round London tournament to visit Germany.

Nor is his chess playing allowed to disrupt lessons at Westminster Under School. Luke does not generally find school a struggle. He finds French boring, but his father added: "He still came top of

his class."

Unusually for a chess player, Luke finds computer studies difficult. He said: "I have to go to the teacher for instruction and by the time I have got back to my desk, I have forgotten it all." His next scheduled international event is the Hastings tournament at Christmas.

Keene on Chess, page 8

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Parents 'too complacent about poor schooling'

By BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

PARENTS are far too easily satisfied by state schools and dramatically over-estimate the quality of education provided, a study disclosed yesterday.

Academics at Keele University said many parents judged schools by their reputation, which was often out-of-date and bore little relation to their actual performance.

The study was based on a survey of more than 10,000 pupils and parents. While nine out of ten parents said they would recommend their children's school to others, pupils pointed to the widespread disruption of lessons, high levels of truancy and a classroom culture hostile to academic achievement.

Michael Barber, professor of education at Keele, said: "Many parents get taken in by a school's reputation and its popularity rather than its real worth. Parents are often very pleased that their child is at an over-subscribed school, while the pupils themselves say that the quality of education is not very good."

"If we are to be serious about raising achievement in education we have to look at what the pupils themselves actually think of it and come up with ways of improving their motivation."

The survey found parents were highly satisfied with schools and generally trusting of teachers. Almost four out of five believed their school had a good reputation and one in three said all teachers did a reasonable job.

But the view from the classroom was starkly different. Many pupils were not interested in their schooling, with half saying that hard workers were taunted by classmates.

Overall, seven out of ten pupils counted the minutes to the end of lessons. Three in ten found their work boring and almost 40 per cent said they would rather not go to school.

One in five of those in their GCSE examination year said they played truant regularly,

compared with one in 12 in their first year at secondary school.

A quarter of pupils admitted they behaved badly sometimes or often at school. One in three said other pupils disrupted lessons every day. In the GCSE year, 92 per cent of pupils said lessons were disrupted.

The report found pupils entered secondary school highly motivated, feeling good about teachers and supported by parents. But these positive attitudes declined steadily until a slight upturn in the GCSE year. However, at the same time, a significant minority also became even more disaffected.

The study highlighted the growing "gender gap", with boys achieving far less than girls and showing less interest in school. Girls were almost twice as likely as boys to get top GCSE grades in most subjects. They out-performed boys at A level, were more likely to get to university and to get a job after graduation.

However, boys were more likely to be praised by teachers, better supported by parents and to think they were able or very able.

Student debt has increased by half in the past year, according to a survey. Average indebtedness stands at £916 per year, up from £614 last year, according to the PUSH Guide to Which University 1995.

The authors of the guide (formerly the Polytechnics and Universities Students Handbook) put the increase down to reducing student grants and increased living costs.

And National Union of Students president Jim Murphy said the rise in debt was the "inevitable" consequence of Government policies. "Student grants have been frozen, and now cut. But living costs haven't."

Grants this September are dropping from £2,845 in London (£2,265 elsewhere) to £2,560 (£2,040).

Lost chapel may date back to St Columba

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE lost chapel of St Columba, rediscovered on a Hebridean island, may date back to the time of the saint himself, according to historians.

The early Celtic Church's tradition of dedicating its church buildings to their founder may indicate that the newly unearthed structure on the island of Canna was at one time blessed by the father of Christianity in Scotland.

Robin Turner, of the National Trust of Scotland, which now owns the island, said: "St Columba himself was a frequent visitor to the island towards the end of the 6th century. The dedication to him is a likely reflection of the antiquity of the site as a place of Christian worship."

St Columba is by far the most important historical personality connected with Gaelic Scotland. He was born in Gartan, Co. Donegal, in 521AD, and is credited with bringing Christianity to Scotland.

He was of noble birth, being connected to the Irish throne, and tradition has him possessed of the gift of second sight. O'Donnell's life of St Columba records that he was warned by the Archangel Michael that he would be exiled from Ireland, where he had founded a number of churches.

St Columba spent the last 34 years of his life in Scotland, where he founded several monasteries on the Hebridean Islands, the most famous of which is at Iona.



Saint Columba setting off from Ireland for Scotland, where he spent the last 34 years of his life and founded several monasteries

He died in 597AD. It was from his base on Iona that he and his monks converted much of northern Scotland. His biographer Adamnan describes him as having "the face of an angel; he was of an excellent nature, polished in speech, holy in deed, great in counsel... loving unto all."

Adamnan records that the saint visited Islay, Mull, Coll, Tiree, Eigg and Skye as well as mainland Scotland. Other islands mentioned are more difficult to identify. One of these is Hinnis or Hinnis, which is mentioned six times by Adamnan and which scholars now believe must be Canna. The dedication of the chapel on Canna to St Columba is a likely reflection of the antiquity of the site as a place of Christian worship.

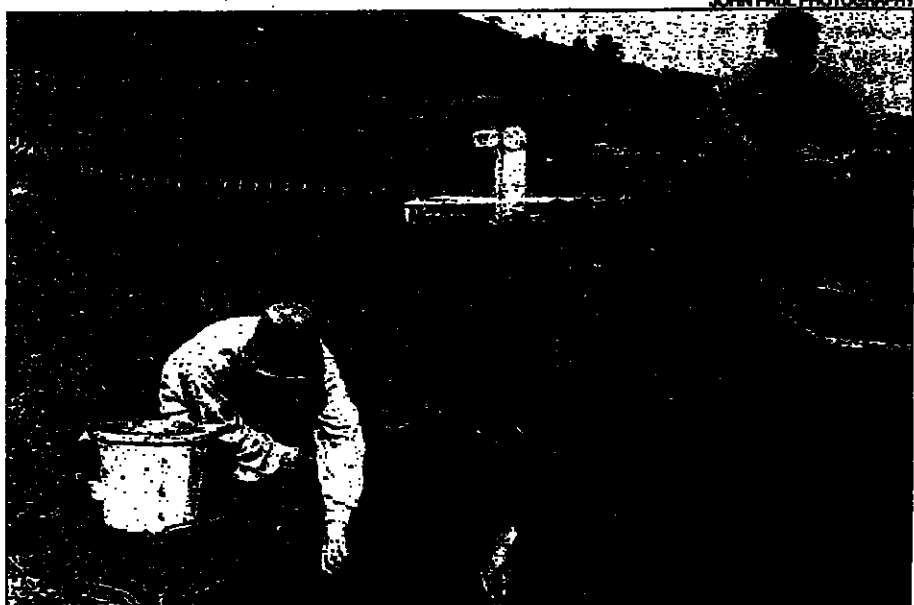
In his definitive work on Canna, *Canna, The Story of a Hebridean Island*, Dr

John Lorne Campbell, who borrowed £9,000 to buy the island in 1938, describes it as "a small but fertile and sheltered island with a good harbour. It was always a valuable piece of property."

Despite its connection with the Jacobite cause, the population of Canna, which peaked at 450 in the mid-19th century, was never divided along sectarian lines, unlike much of Scotland.

For the remaining 20 inhabitants of the island, including Dr Lorne Campbell, Canna remains a holy place. On June 9, 1963, they celebrated the 1400th anniversary of St Columba's arrival in Scotland when Mass was said in the open air by the carved cross near the site of the original chapel.

Chapel found, page 1
Leading article, page 17



Archaeologists excavating on the Hebridean island of Canna

MoD's rundown of Rosyth is 'high risk'

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE rundown of the Rosyth naval base is a "high risk" option for the Navy, Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, claimed yesterday, referring to confidential signals passed to him by people concerned about the situation.

The Defence Ministry plans to run down Rosyth naval base and transfer its mine-sweeper squadrons to Portsmouth and Faslane on the Clyde as part of the Govern-

ment's defence spending cuts. Mr Brown, speaking at Inverkeithing near Rosyth, said Faslane was unable to take the transferred workload from Rosyth without heavy financial investment. He said: "The closure of Rosyth naval base has become the high risk, high cost and high unemployment option and should be rejected."

The two-page signal in cryptic naval jargon is marked restricted and was sent from the Clyde naval base com-

mander to Navy officials at Rosyth in July.

In it the commander warns that some specialist facilities will not be available for the transferred minesweeper squadron until late 1996. He also says that a satisfactory outcome to what he calls a "challenging programme" will depend on getting enough men and money to manage the transfer.

In particular, the commander warns there is a "high risk" of being unable to convert two

berths at Faslane by 1996 for the minesweepers to occupy long-term.

Mr Brown said: "The timetable for the closure of Rosyth naval base by 1996 cannot be met. Faslane is unable to take the Rosyth workload without massive financial investment. The timetable runs the risk of going completely wrong."

Mr Brown said he had screened the signals and carefully removed any confidential information that had no bearing on the Rosyth case.

Tube poetry pulls out all the stops

By RACHEL KELLY

TUBE stations from Acton Town to Boston Manor are to get honourable mentions in a new anthology of poetry and prose which celebrates London Underground.

The book has been compiled by two 70-year-old Tube-lovers from Hampstead, north London, Taffin Wolff, a retired teacher, and Dorothy Meade, a retired journalist.

It is being launched as a companion volume to the highly successful *Poems on the Underground*, which has sold 100,000 copies, and is to be published in October. The authors began compiling literary snippets about the 274 Underground stops in the 1940s when they were English literature undergraduates.

Mrs Meade said: "We have both used the Tube for many years and we feel great affec-

tion for it. In spite of all the bad press and gross underfunding, so many writers have celebrated the Underground and its stops."

The anthology includes extracts from Sir John Betjeman, T.S. Eliot, Virginia Woolf, William Wordsworth and Chaucer, culled from the authors' knowledge of English literature and help from friends over the years. It is published by Cassells and the London Transport Museum.

"We started with the inner Circle, as it used to be known, and moved outwards," Mrs Meade said. "We have had problems with one or two stations, like Redbridge on the Central line, and other places which were only invented as the Underground expanded. But Betjeman was a great help with the Metropolitan line."

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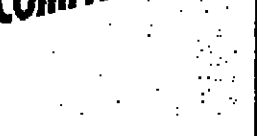


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FLEET DRIVERS AND LOCAL BUSINESS ACCOUNTS WELCOME



Death-row dog 'has pit-bull muscles'

By A STAFF REPORTER

A LIFE or death battle resumed yesterday over Buster, the dog who has had a destruction order hanging over him since his owner, Karen Brock, 22, was convicted by magistrates in Barnet, north London, of owning an unregistered pit bull contrary to the 1991 Dangerous Dogs Act.

He has been kept in police-appointed kennels for more than two years while Miss Brock fights the decision, arguing that her pet is a cross-breed and has never harmed anyone.

Jan Eachus, an RSPCA chief inspector, told the latest appeal at Wood Green Crown Court, north London, that he believed Buster had the characteristics of a pit bull.

Mr Eachus, who has seen Buster 30 to 40 times, said he had several characteristics which conformed with the American Dog Breeder Association standard for the pit bull breed. He described the breed as having "an overall square appearance" and very strong shoulder muscles. "They have to be well-developed because the dogs fight face-on."

Alison Robson, a vet, who

has examined Buster twice, told the court: "In my opinion, this dog is the type known as pit bull terrier."

However, she admitted that there were some aspects of Buster that did not conform with the American Dog Breeders' Association description of the breed.

Buster had a "feminine-type head" and "did not conform perfectly", Miss Robson said. The appeal is expected to last three days, with the defence calling Roger Mugford, an animal expert who has given the Queen advice about her corgis.



Buster in police kennel for over two years

Concrete contender for Most Useless Man

A NEW television show has launched a nationwide search for Britain's Most Useless Man -- and there have been plenty of nominations.

Producers of *The Opposite Sex*, which will be screened on BBC1 on August 31, hosted by Chris Tarrant, have advertised in newspapers and on local radio stations inviting women to nominate their husbands or boyfriends.

Tarrant said there had been no shortage of couples keen to take part. "One woman said she had been outside in the garden doing the concreting when her man called her in to change the TV channel."

"Another woman said her husband was so lazy he had not done the washing-up since October 7, 1988, and

then he said she had made the mess in the kitchen so it was her job to clear it up."

A studio audience of 150 couples were invited to air their grievances about the opposite sex. Pet hates for women about men included leaving clothes all over the place, going to the pub for hours on end and leaving the lavatory seat up.

For men about women it was spending too much time on the telephone and nagging about going to the pub. Tarrant said: "I'm sure Mrs Tarrant probably feels the same, but we have had a great time making the programme and it was a real eye-opener."

The search for the Most Useless Man will continue during the autumn.

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No problem!
says Tyneside
IRA man as he
gets 25 years

'No problem', says Tyneside IRA man as he gets 25 years

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

SEAN McNulty, the English-born recruit to the IRA who bombed oil and gas installations on Tyneside, was sentenced to 25 years in prison by an Old Bailey judge yesterday.

The 26-year-old terrorist, who has a fanatical hatred of Britain, gave a thumbs-up sign to Mr Justice Mitchell and said "That's no problem" before being taken to the cells by prison officers.

Amanda Johnson, his former girlfriend whose evidence helped to convict him, was later said to be fearing for her life and under armed police protection.

The judge told McNulty: "The fact that no-one was killed or injured, as so easily could have happened, or extensive devastation resulted, helps you not one bit. I have no doubt the results fell very far short of what you had hoped for. I have no desire to add to the long list of adjectives which have been used to describe people like you in the past."

McNulty, a construction worker from North Shields who had an Irish father but was born and brought up on Tyneside, had denied conspiring with others to cause explosions with the intent of endangering life or causing damage to property.

On Sunday a jury convicted him of bombing the Esso oil terminal in North Shields and a British Gas depot at Redheugh on Tyneside in June last year. McNulty, whose lawyers offered no mitigation on his behalf before sentence, was found guilty after complex forensic evidence was shown to the jury and on the testimony of Ms Johnson.

Ms Johnson, 24, the mother of his nine-year-old daughter, told the court of his allegiance to the IRA and his hatred of

the English. Two bombs at the Esso terminal, which each contained more than a kilo of Semtex, ruptured pipelines and an oil tank, but fortunately all were empty. Nigel Sweeney, for the prosecution, had told the jury.

Another bomb blew a hole in a British Gas holder containing 1.4 million cubic feet of methane gas, setting it on fire, but staff and firemen managed to prevent an explosion and the blaze burned itself out. Some 400 people, including pensioners, were evacuated from nearby houses.

The two devices, which went off within minutes of each other at the Esso terminal, had been the target of an earlier bomb attack in April.

The prosecution had claimed that McNulty also took part in that attack, but the jurors could not agree a verdict on his alleged involvement with it.

The court was told that fibres from his clothing and footprints had linked him to the June blasts.

McNulty, who had been under the scrutiny of Special Branch officers for five years after being spotted associating with IRA sympathisers, was captured on a petrol station video in his car less than half a mile from the gas works and less than 15 minutes before the device was timed to explode.

When police examined McNulty's car while he was away in Ireland after the bombings, they found traces of Semtex explosive. He was arrested on his return.

The court heard that McNulty had a previous conviction for possession of a stolen shotgun. He fired it into a relative's car during a family argument and was jailed at Newcastle crown court for 13 months in 1990.

Queen braves hot reception in Arctic

By BEN MACINTYRE

AS THE Queen set out for Canada's Northwest Territories yesterday with a visit to Yellowknife on the last leg of a ten-day tour of the country, the death threats she has received in recent days may be seen as a reflection of life in one of the most beautiful, inhospitable and violent outposts in her dominions.

If Canada has a deserved reputation for courtesy and hospitality, then this beautiful, hard-bitten, frost-bitten region, the size of Europe, with a population of just 57,000, could be the exception to prove the rule.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police are treating seriously two bomb threats against the

Queen, but officials said there were no plans to increase security during yesterday's royal visit to the arctic settlements in Rankin Inlet and Igloolik. Police believe the threats are most likely to be a publicity stunt.

The propensity for sudden and extreme violence here was demonstrated two years ago when the Yellowknife gold mine was bombed at the height of a labour dispute, killing nine miners.

Yellowknife became a magnet for hippies in the 1960s, and their shanties and caravans still dot the town, but apart from the bureaucracy of territorial government this remains a rough 19th century mining town with high rates of alcoholism, drug use and venereal disease.

Yellowknife, on the north shore of Great Slave Lake with a population of 15,000, was settled by traders as early as the 17th century before the discovery of gold in the 1890s. A second mining boom, this time for diamonds, has sent prospectors streaming to the region in the past three years. Earlier this month, however,



A polar bear rug serves as red carpet as the Queen arrives to address parliament in Yellowknife yesterday

an American mining subsidiary of Rio Tinto Zinc announced it was not worth proceeding with diamond mining plans.

Fears that the diamond rush is over before it begins may be one reason why local

passions are running high. Another is the increasing frustration of the local ethnic tribes, native Indians and Eskimos or Inuit. Although one of the bomb threats purported to be from such groups, native leaders have

denied any connection. The region is frozen for some eight months of the year. Recently, a blizzard engulfed a football match north of Yellowknife. Unable to find their way to safety, both teams froze to death.

□ Australia will become a republic with its own head of state in time to avoid the Queen opening the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, Gough Whitlam, the former Labour prime minister, predicted yesterday.

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THE WAY FORWARD FOR UK AEROSPACE

Spirit of Bleriot on return flight

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

MORE than 20 microlight aircraft will set off from Heathrow airport on Thursday to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the first international passenger service.

They are marking the occasion on August 25, 1919, when a de Havilland biplane took off from Hounslow Heath on the outskirts of what is now Heathrow to fly to Le Bourget airport, Paris.

There was just one passenger on board and a cargo of a brace of grouse, London newspapers and Devonshire cream. The pilot, E.H. "Bill" Lawford, took two and a half hours to do the crossing.

The flights this week also mark BA's 75th anniversary and the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Paris.

The 1919 service was operated by a company called Aircraft Transport and Travel Ltd, which evolved through a number of mergers, ownership and name changes into today's British Airways. The fare on that first flight was £42 return, equivalent to about £1,000 at today's prices.

A passenger in one of the microlights will be Henri Bouvier, a French journalist whose wife is a great-granddaughter of Louis Bleriot, who first flew the Channel in 1909.



Blandford: denies not paying medical bills

Blandford pursued over bill for £300

By ROSE DUTTA

THE Marquess of Blandford, who has just started a job with a sports car company, is being pursued for allegedly not paying medical bills.

The recently deposed heir to the Blandford estate appears to have used out-of-date credit cards to pay for treatment from Medcall Ltd, a 24-hour private GP service.

The company has decided to issue a summons against Lord Blandford today after reading last week that their former patient had taken a job as public relations and marketing director for a specialist car-tuning company based at Silverstone, Northamptonshire. He is also to become a columnist at the *Sunday Express*.

A spokesman for Medcall said Lord Blandford had used credit cards that had been cancelled two years ago to pay three bills totalling £300.

The spokesman said that Medcall had sent three letters demanding payment and phoned him on five occasions. Lord Blandford's telephone was cut off three weeks ago. "We decided to take civil action because it is not in our nature to go to the police. We wanted to wait until he got himself together. Now he is bouncing back on his feet and got a job, he should pay back the money he owes us."

Lord Blandford yesterday denied that he had failed to pay medical bills. He said: "All my medical bills have been paid and are up to date. I am a member of BUPA."

□ Lord Blandford yesterday threatened to sue *The Daily Telegraph*, which used a photograph of him with a story about Sean McNulty, jailed yesterday for IRA bomb attacks.

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Mackay lifts ban on civil servants becoming judges

By Frances Gibb
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chancellor has agreed to lift the ban on civil servants who work as lawyers in the government legal service being eligible for appointment as judges.

The change means that some 3,150 civil servants doing legal work in all government departments as well as in the Crown Prosecution Service will now be able to sit as judges.

A letter to the Treasury Solicitor from the Lord Chancellor's Department says that the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, has concluded it would be right to "modify" the policy of prohibition.

The change, which has been sought for some years by the First Division Association, the senior civil servants' union, will widen the pool of lawyers eligible for appointment as judges and could boost the numbers of women and ethnic minority candidates.

However, it also blurs the distinction between the executive and judiciary and may be opposed by some as a threat to



Mackay: usual selection criteria will still apply

the independence of the judiciary.

Geoffrey Bindman, a solicitor and human rights lawyer, said: "I think there are potential dangers in this. In some countries there have been government lawyers appointed to the bench to introduce a pro-government bias. I am not saying that would happen here but there are risks which need to be carefully watched."

The most likely first posts

would be tribunal chairmen and assistant recorders — a part-time judicial post. The civil servants will not be able to sit as chairman of tribunals where the Government is often involved in the case, such as at social security appeal tribunals and immigration tribunals.

However, the letter from the Lord Chancellor's Department says that "in those tribunals where the State is not habitually a party, for example industrial tribunals, there is no objection to the possibility of members of the Government Legal Service sitting as chairmen."

The civil servant would be required to disqualify him or herself where the State is involved. The Lord Chancellor's Department makes clear that the usual criteria for selection will apply, such as the person must be available for at least 20 days a year to sit as a part-time judge.

Robyn Dacey, assistant general secretary of the First Division Association, said the union welcomed the lifting of the ban. "Government lawyers used to be eligible some years ago for judicial posts but

then there was concern about retired civil servants mopping up judicial posts when they retired, which is not our intention."

Ms Dacey said the idea was to enable the expertise of civil servant lawyers to be used. The change was also likely to increase the numbers of women and ethnic minority judges because both groups were better represented in the civil service than in the private legal profession.

There are 950 lawyers employed in government legal departments and another 2,200 in the Crown Prosecution Service.

A £20,000 campaign to fight any proposals to privatise the Crown Prosecution Service has been launched by the First Division Association.

The association maintains that prosecutions ought to be conducted by a public body, regulated by statute and accountable to Parliament.



Construction under way yesterday at the site of the new No 1 court at Wimbledon

Wimbledon builds for the future

WORK began yesterday on the site of the new No 1 Court at Wimbledon, part of the All-England Club's "master plan" to improve the quality of the championship and maintain its international standing (John Goodbody writes).

The £30 million project, scheduled for completion in 1997, is designed to transform the staging of the annual championships.

Construction at Aorangi Park, which has previously been used for the food village and picnic area, includes driving a 270-metre two-lane tunnel from Somerset Road on one side of the club to Church Road on the other to aid the flow of traffic during the annual championships.

The new court will have about 10,000 seats compared with a capacity of 6,500 seats and 820 standing places in the present No 1 court. There will also be two new outside courts and a television centre.

After its completion, the present stands, next to the Centre Court, will be demolished and a block built for the media and players.

Inquiry to be held over parachutist

By A Staff Reporter

THE British Parachuting Association is to hold an inquiry into the death of a woman who fell 12,000 ft to her death, in front of her twin sister, when her parachute failed to open.

Carol Jane Raschkes, 37, a keen parachutist who broke her leg while jumping six months ago, was making the free-fall jump at RAF Weston-on-the-Green, near Bicester, Oxfordshire, on Sunday in front of her family and boyfriend.

They watched in horror as Miss Raschkes grappled with the equipment while falling at up to 90mph.

Miss Raschkes, a marketing manager from Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, was killed on impact and pronounced dead at the scene by a local doctor. Members of her family were treated for shock.

Michelle Woodman, a friend and neighbour, said Miss Raschkes' boyfriend, who was also a skydiver, and the family were devastated. "They are all very upset and distressed. Carol was a super girl who was full of life."

"It is terrible that something like this should happen, especially when her family was there. It is unimaginable."

She said Miss Raschkes had found it very frustrating being grounded as a result of the broken leg, which she sustained during a jump in Cyprus. She had harboured ambitions to teach others to

parachute. "She was mad on parachuting. She loved it. It seemed as though parachuting was her life and it is terrible that she died doing one of her favourite things."

Mrs Woodman said the family were very close, and her identical twin sister, a doctor, was very shocked. "You can't tell them apart. She will really miss her."

Further jumping at the base was suspended after the accident, the fifth involving the death of a parachutist this year. Flights were expected to resume yesterday if weather conditions permitted.

The jump was organised by the Royal Air Force Sport Parachute Association, of which Miss Raschkes was a civilian member.

A spokesman for RAF Brize Norton said Miss Raschkes' parachute had appeared not to open. She had activated it in accordance with procedures learnt in compulsory training sessions, and the emergency parachute had also failed to operate. In a jump from 12,000 ft a parachutist would free-fall for 9,000 ft and open the parachute at 3,000 ft.

Flight Lieutenant Julian Evans said the inquiry would discover the full circumstances of the accident. "Until its findings are known any speculation on how this happened would be amiss," he said.

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£80,000	7.89% APR 8.3%	£486.55	5.75% APR 6.0%	£354.58	£131.97
£100,000	7.89% APR 8.3%	£618.05	5.75% APR 6.0%	£450.42	£167.63

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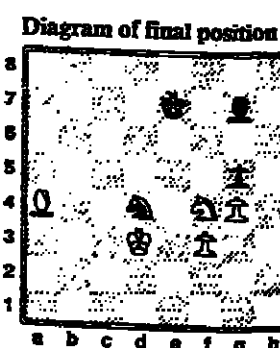
By Raymond Keene
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

British prodigy

Luke McShane, the British chess prodigy from Clapham, the former World Under-10 champion and the youngest British player ever to have achieved an international rating, has added a fresh triumph to his already promising career. In the 2nd round of the Lloyds Bank Masters tournament, currently in progress at London's Cumberland Hotel, Luke drew with the German grandmaster Romanold Mainka. Luke thus becomes, at the age of 10 years 7 months, the youngest British player ever to have drawn with a grandmaster in an official tournament game. Here is that historic game.

White: Romanold Mainka
Black: Luke McShane
Lloyds Bank, August 1994

Sicilian Defence
1 e4 c5
2 Nf3 d5
3 d4 Nf6
4 Nxc4 Nf6
5 Nc3 e6
6 Be3 d5
7 N3 Qc7
8 e5 Bc7
9 a5 Nbd7
10 Be2 O-O
11 O-O b5
12 a6 Nb6
13 Nc2 Bc7
14 Bb6 Qd6
15 Nc4 Qd4
16 Nc5 Bc4
17 Rxd1 Nc4
18 Nc6 Bc4
19 Nc5 Bc4
20 Bc6 Nc5
21 Bc4 e4
22 c3 Nc4
23 Rb2 Nc6
24 Rb3 Rb8



Novgorod Update

The scores at Novgorod after seven of the ten rounds are: Kasparov 5.5, Ivanchuk 5, Kramnik 4, Shirov and Short 2.5, Bareev 1.5.

Winning Move, page 46

Rob Roy is latest hero of Scottish film boom

RSPCA train c
Europe in pe

Rob Roy is latest hero of Scottish film boom

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

SCOTLAND is fast becoming a giant film set for international directors and producers, attracted by a favourable exchange rate and by the efforts of a small publicly-funded company which is oiling the wheels of bureaucracy.

The latest in a series of big feature films being shot in the wilds of Scotland is *Rob Roy*, a United Artists epic with Liam Neeson, the star of *Schindler's List*, as the 18th-century Highland hero.

Much of the credit for the burgeoning industry must go to Scottish Screen Locations. Since 1990, it has been marketing Scotland as a production base, offering free help with contracts, information on potential locations from castles to caves, and helping to arrange various permits from local authorities.

Lee Leckie, commissioner for Scottish Screen Locations, said that more than £20 million was expected to be attracted this year through 12 feature films, television series and commercials, compared with 1991, when there were only four feature films and a revenue of £3.2 million.

Unlike the British Film Commission, which was awarded £3.5 million for three years, Ms Leckie said Scottish Screen Locations was run on a shoestring and

relied on support from local government and local enterprise companies.

Among the big productions lured to Scotland this year are *Braveheart* with Mel Gibson; *Lock Ness*, starring Ted Danson of *Cheers* fame, due to start filming next month; *Breaking the Waves*, by Lars von Trier, the Danish director; two German productions; and a television documentary on Bonnie Prince Charlie.

"Scotland is a mini-Hollywood," said Brian Cox, the actor and director who is co-starring in *Rob Roy*, and who claims to be descended from the Scottish hero through his mother's family.

Rob Roy, which features the American actress Jessica Lange as the warrior's wife, is directed by Michael Caton-Jones, a Scot whose films include *Memphis Belle*, about Second World War fliers. He believes *Rob Roy* will do for Scottish tourism what *Crocodile Dundee* did for Australian tourism — increasing it by 30 per cent.

For Neeson's *Rob Roy* and the army of actors, one enemy is a plague of midges. The crew are wearing protective masks and blowing air through a wind-machine to disperse the insects during filming. Several members of the team have been so badly bitten they look as though



Michael Caton-Jones, the director, on the set of *Rob Roy*. He makes comparisons between his Highland epic and classic Westerns

they have chicken-pox. But a more formidable enemy still is the weather which, along with the terrain, makes *Rob Roy* one of the most demanding film productions on record, according to the producers.

However, says Cox, this should not come as a surprise

to filmmakers. He recalled that when *Brigadoon* was made in the 1950s, the rain drove the production from Scotland to America.

The filming operation is a combination of a military manoeuvre and travelling circus, involving 104 vehicles and 300 people. In the next

few weeks, filming 3,636ft up on Meall A' Bhuidh in the midst of Glencoe, will involve transporting heavy cameras and equipment by chair-lift, followed by a precarious climb.

Nevertheless, the production has caused so much excitement in the local com-

munity, said the unit publicist, that when a call was made for long-haired bearded extras, hardly a man in the area was shaving.

Mr Caton-Jones described his epic as a Western set in the Highlands. Apart from the landscapes, the values and sensibilities of Westerns

Rob Roy is almost a Western here. "He fights for what he believes in. He has no choice. For him, there are certain inviolable beliefs."

At £25 million, the film's budget is extremely large by European standards. "The most costly thing is Liam Neeson," the publicist said.

Boy's party guests raid family home

A couple returned from holiday and found that jewellery and property worth £3,500 had been stolen after wild parties hosted by their 17-year-old son.

Neighbours were also angry at the loud music and revving of motorcycles which went on while Gary and Lynda Carr spent ten days in Turkey.

Mrs Carr, 39, of Taplow, Buckinghamshire, said: "I couldn't believe. They had been in every single drawer and cupboard in the house. I had put my jewellery away in different places and all of that was gone."

Ian works at a local hotel and people who had been at one of his parties borrowed a key to collect some items and stole the valuables while he was at work. "I rowed with Ian for three days after we got back," Mrs Carr said.

Sikhs held

Police are questioning Sikh protesters after Mohinder Mandair, president of the Indian Overseas Congress, was stabbed in the face during weekend celebrations in Nottingham for India's independence anniversary. Up to 200 Sikh demonstrators threw eggs and abused guests.

Cannabis case

Larry Rosental, 49, of Duddinghurst, Essex, was charged with producing cannabis after more than 1,500 plants were found in a greenhouse. He was remanded in custody for a week by Epping magistrates.

Man arrested

A 42-year-old man has been arrested in Staffordshire in connection with the death of Bruno, a champion point-to-point racehorse that was savagely attacked at a farm near Lutterton, Dyfed, last week.

Player bailed

Mick Martin, 43, a former Newcastle United footballer and Irish international, was bailed for two months by Newcastle magistrates, charged with two others of evading £15 million VAT.

Angler robbed

An angler was stripped and tied to a fence at Arncliffe on the Leeds-Liverpool Canal after a man in his twenties and three teenagers demanded cash at knifepoint.

Record cracked

An egg dropped from a helicopter 700ft above a Blackpool golf course landed without breaking. The previous record of 650ft was set on October 2 in Tokyo.

Severn turtle

A turtle weighing about half a ton has been washed up dead in the Severn near Gloucester.

RSPCA to train eastern Europeans in pet care

By MICHAEL HORNSEY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S biggest animal welfare charity has launched a campaign to relieve the suffering of domestic pets in eastern Europe.

During the next year the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) is to run training courses in Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, Bulgaria and Romania to teach volunteers how to care for sick and stray animals.

Jennifer Butt, the RSPCA's head of international affairs, conceived the idea after visiting some of the countries last year. "During the communist period, animals that did not produce anything useful such as milk or meat were regarded as a bourgeois luxury," Ms Butt said. "One vet in the Czech Republic told me that

caring for domestic pets was considered to be almost a crime against the state."

In one Polish shelter Ms Butt found starving cats crammed into overcrowded cages next door to pens full of howling dogs. In a Hungarian pound, animals were left to wander through the kennels. Injuries they inflicted on each other in frequent fights were left untreated.

Six RSPCA officials will spend a week in each country, starting in Poland in a fortnight's time, giving instruction to about 25 local volunteers. This will include advice on how to raise funds for animal welfare campaigns.

The RSPCA will also seek to persuade the authorities in eastern European of the bene-

fits of spaying and neutering as a means of controlling the stray population. In most countries there stray dogs and cats are left to scavenge.

Brittany Ferries yesterday introduced a partial ban on the transport of farm animals on its six cross-Channel routes to France and Spain. The ban applies only to animals being delivered directly to abattoirs on the Continent and will affect mainly sheep.

P&O, the biggest carrier, with about 50 per cent of the trade, said earlier this month that it would stop carrying animals for slaughter after October 1 unless there was an "imminent prospect" of an agreement by the European Union to tighten welfare regulations on the road transport of livestock.

Burial delayed as workmen enlarge grave

A FAMILY is demanding compensation after a burial was held up for ten minutes because the coffin was too big for the grave.

Pall-bearers tried desperately to lower the coffin of Margaret Easton, 73, into the hole but, after they tried to turn it on its side, the vicar called in the grave-digger.

Mourners at the council cemetery in Siddal, Halifax, West Yorkshire, watched as workmen, who continued to smoke as they worked, arrived in a dumper truck.

Ronnie Easton, 71, Mrs Easton's husband, said: "They probably would have succeeded in burying her sideways if we hadn't shouted to them to stop. It's a terrible last memory of somebody."

The family is now seeking compensation from Calderdale Council and the funeral directors.

Telepathy works, so long as you're on the beach

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

TAPING ping-pong balls over your eyes, listening to the hiss of white noise on headphones and being bathed in warm, Costa Brava-style light could be the key to tapping hidden mental powers.

British researchers have discovered that, rather like a skier needs snow and poles to perform on the piste, people can demonstrate the power of extra-sensory perception (ESP) given the right kit and setting. ESP — or telepathy — is the often reviled term for people transferring thoughts unaided by machines.

The new evidence for this phenomenon has come from tests involving artists and musicians at the University of Edinburgh. Asked to guess which out of four images was the one being sent to them by

someone in another room, a group of 32 volunteers correctly identified the image more than 30 per cent of the time, and in some cases nearly 50 per cent of the time.

Professor Robert Morris, who holds the Koestler chair in parapsychology at the University of Edinburgh, said yesterday: "Our results compare with a 25 per cent accuracy which would have happened by chance."

The studies, details of which will be announced this week at a scientific conference in Glasgow, would appear to support claims that, given the right conditions, some humans may possess the skill to transfer thoughts.

The volunteers each sat in a room acoustically sealed from a researcher trying to relay

images as thoughts. The person acting as sender was shown a video clip of a film or television programme chosen randomly by a computer and asked to relay this by telepathy for 28 minutes.

Afterwards the volunteers were shown four images and asked to identify the right one, which they did on average 33 per cent of the time.

The research also indicated that the degree of relaxation could be a key factor in boosting ESP. Each of the volunteers wore headphones sending out white noise and halves of ping-pong balls taped over their eyes and had light shone on their faces to create the illusion of "being on a sunny beach with their eyes closed", Professor Morris said.

Pensioner's stroke will not deter bulldozers

BULLDOZERS poised to knock down the home of a 93-year-old woman will not be held back indefinitely while she remains in hospital, the Department of Transport said yesterday.

Dolly Watson, whose house in Leytonstone, east London, is blocking the path of the new M11 link road, collapsed five days ago with a suspected mild stroke. She is being treated at Whipps Cross Hospital, east London, where staff say there are no plans to discharge her.

A department spokesman said that while no attempt was being made to demolish the house in her absence, the situation could change. "Clearly the road is going to be built. If she's in hospital for a year we couldn't be expected to hold up the contract for that long," he said.

Angus Richardson, a solicitor representing the M11 link protesters and Miss Watson, said that if there was any move to knock down the house he would go immediately to the High Court. "We will not allow them to do that," he said.

Miss Watson was born in an upstairs bedroom of the two-bedroom terraced house which her parents moved into in 1890.

She has been offered sheltered housing in a ground-floor flat less than a mile from her present home.

The Highways Agency, an executive agency of the DoT, is seeking possession orders against 150 protesters who have barricaded themselves into Clarendon Road and are refusing to move.

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Uneasy Paris denials draw veil from murder by the state



Paul Barril, right, in 1991 with Jacques Vergès, then his lawyer

FORMER secret service chiefs yesterday rejected claims that President Mitterrand had once ordered the death of the Paris lawyer now acting for Carlos the Jackal. However, their denials put the spotlight on murder as a tool of the French state.

French agents had standing orders to kill Carlos, whose real name is Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, and other foreign terrorists, but Mitterrand has proved less willing than his predecessors to approve the elimination of terrorist agents in France or neighbouring countries, according to accounts from former officers. Explaining the chain of command in such operations, *Le Monde* said the chief of the DGSE, the French foreign intelligence service, presents a list of targets to the President, who then ticks off his choice of victims without a word being uttered.

This glimpse into the murky world of state-approved murder has been afforded by the polemics surrounding Jacques Vergès, the defence lawyer whose own past

President Mitterrand did not order the secret services to kill the lawyer now acting for Carlos. But, Charles Bremner writes, France has accepted violence in the name of *raison d'état*

has hijacked the headlines from his newly incarcerated client.

In a startling television appearance on Sunday, Paul Barril, a former officer who worked with the presidential anti-terrorist unit, said Mitterrand had been a "priority target" for the special services in the early 1980s. "All the services were onto him because he was at the centre of all terrorist contacts." The operation to kill the lawyer had approval from the President but had been abandoned for technical reasons, he said.

M Vergès had made the same claim on Friday after the press unearthed files of the Stasi, the former East German service, which claimed that he was more involved in Carlos's network than a legal go-between. "What the

President of the Republic ordered was a crime... I am waiting for a denial," M Vergès said.

Less than complete denials came yesterday from Pierre Marion, the head of the DGSE, and Yves Bonnet, boss of the DST, the domestic security agency, in the early 1980s. M Marion said he knew nothing about an operation against the lawyer, adding: "It seems strange on the face of it but one cannot exclude anything." M Bonnet, now an MP for the centre-right UDF, said he was convinced M Mitterrand had given no such order. It was not his service's habit to go around "physically eliminating" French lawyers.

Carlos was another matter, M Bonnet said, confirming reports that the government of the time

ordered the killing of the terrorist if possible. Officials also attacked the credibility of M Barril, a former head of the Gendarmerie intervention brigade sacked after allegations that he planted evidence in an operation against Irish terrorist suspects in 1983.

However, France has never been as squeamish as other states in acknowledging the usefulness of violence in the name of *raison d'état*. The concept, readily accepted by the public, is also invoked to cover deals which freed French hostages in Beirut as well as the liberation of terrorist suspects.

What the CIA used to call operations to "terminate with extreme prejudice" are known in the French jargon as *opérations humides*. During the Algerian war three decades ago, the murders of rebel sympathisers in Europe were carried out by a group calling itself the Red Hand, later proved to be a front for a section of the SDECE, as the DGSE was known until 1982.

The DGSE's action in 1985

against the Greenpeace vessel, the *Rainbow Warrior*, while it was in harbour in New Zealand was the most recent confirmed case. The officers involved in the operation in which a photographer was killed and the vessel sunk — and which poisoned French relations with New Zealand and also Australia — have since been promoted with the senior among them now heading military intelligence.

The most authoritative detail of such actions has come from M Marion, who headed the service in the first two years of M Mitterrand's Socialist administration. In a recent book and interviews, he has claimed that his men successfully eliminated terrorist figures in the Middle East.

In 1982, M Mitterrand ordered the DGSE to kill Carlos and Abu Nidal, the Palestinian terrorist leader, but he caused consternation in the service by denying permission to "neutralise" five terrorist agents in France or any in neighbouring European countries, M Marion reports.

Israel detects Iran's finger in bombing that killed 100 at Jewish centre in Argentina

Peres tells Germans stolen plutonium is reaching Tehran

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

ISRAEL yesterday warned the German government that smuggled Russian plutonium was ending up in the hands of the Iranians.

Shimon Peres, the Israeli Foreign Minister, told Klaus Kinkel, his German counterpart, on a visit here that "the time has come to settle accounts with Iran". There were indications, he said, that the European middlemen peddling stolen plutonium were selling their nuclear merchandise to the Iranians or groups supported by Tehran.

The Israeli warning came as Austrian customs agents confirmed that they had seized ten electronic guiding systems made for American tanks and destined for Iran. Vienna airport authorities said last night that the material, made for M60 A-3 tanks, was transported to Vienna on board trucks from Ljubljana, capital of Slovenia, and was to be loaded on an Iran Air flight at Vienna airport.

Mr Peres, in an interview with Israeli radio, said there "was always an Iranian finger" in attacks against Jewish targets. In particular, Israel is convinced that Iran was behind the July 18 bombing of a Jewish centre in Buenos Aires in Argentina in which nearly 100 people were killed.

Mr Peres was approaching Germany, as president of the European Union, in an attempt to secure a tougher Europe-wide policy towards Iran. The Israelis regard Germany as the weakest link in the Union. Bonn has even played host to the head of the Iranian security services despite suspicions of a link between Tehran and terrorist groups. Germany argues that there must be a channel of

communication with Iran. Mr Peres made clear yesterday that he had no fundamental grudge against Germany's Middle East policy, despite his doubts about Iran. He praised Bonn's readiness to invest in the region.

The plutonium question — above all the possibility that it could transform the terrorist scene in months — hung over yesterday's talks. Bernd Schmidbauer, Germany's negotiator, continued his talks in Moscow with Russian security officials in an attempt to persuade them that there was a serious leak of nuclear materials. However, German plans to crack down on plutonium salesmen in Europe have stumbled into political controversy.

The main argument is over whether the German intelligence service should be

allowed to operate against nuclear smugglers on German soil or whether this should be solely a matter for the uniformed and plainclothes police. The Christian Democrats of Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, are keen to extend the powers of the intelligence service, but the junior government partners, the Free Democrats, oppose any such moves. The security service is supposed to concentrate on foreign intelligence-gathering, but a law presented to parliament in May will give German agents some scope to follow up suspected drug and weapons dealers in Germany.

The Christian Democrats want to rush through this law and would like to make explicit provision for investigating nuclear smugglers. Herr Kinkel and Sabine Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger, the Justice Minister — both Free Democrats — are opposed. The reason for the split was clearly expressed by Henning Scherf, the Social Democrat legal expert: "The fusion of secret police methods of investigation with police powers of arrest was a hallmark of the Gestapo in the Third Reich."

For 40 years there has been a strict separation of powers in Germany. Now, frightened by the implications and potential risks of the plutonium business, the Christian Democrats want "a police-like intelligence service and a spy-like police force". The law against organised crime — which is supposed to give the extended powers to German intelligence agents — is still blocked in the upper house of parliament, but Herr Kohl is stepping up the pressure to have it passed before the October elections.

PLO denies recognition 'decision'

Cairo: Palestinian officials denied yesterday that Yasser Arafat's Fatah group was seeking Israeli recognition of a Palestinian state before the PLO purges its charter of clauses denying the Jewish state's right to exist. "There has been no such decision," Nabil Shaath, the chief PLO negotiator, said. A Fatah central committee member said on Sunday the decision to link the issues was taken on Saturday at a meeting chaired by the PLO leader. (Reuters)



An Austrian customs officer yesterday checking one of the ten fire control systems for US battle tanks seized at Vienna airport. The illegal consignment had arrived from Slovenia last month and was destined for Iran.

Moscow joins anti-smuggling pact

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

RUSSIAN and German security chiefs yesterday vowed to combat jointly the illegal sale of nuclear materials when they agreed to closer intelligence co-operation.

After talks with the heads of Russia's former KGB, Bernd Schmidbauer, Germany's intelligence co-ordinator, announced that a preliminary agreement had been reached. "Both sides agree that illegal transactions

with nuclear materials, regardless of where they come from, pose serious dangers," said Herr Schmidbauer, whose country has intercepted four samples of weapons-grade plutonium and enriched uranium in the past three months alone.

The two sides signed a memorandum, which is now awaiting the approval of President Yeltsin of Russia and Helmut Kohl, the Ger-

man Chancellor. The agreement is believed to include provisions for closer intelligence sharing and a commitment to tighten customs inspections. Although the deal was seen as a step forward, observers predicted that it would work only if the two countries overcame mutual suspicions.

Even yesterday Sergei Stepanov, the head of Russia's foreign intelligence ser-

vice, insisted that there was still no definite evidence that the seized nuclear material had come from Russia. The Russians are puzzled that Herr Schmidbauer apparently did not bring with him any samples of the material seized in Germany. German officers involved in the recent operations have meanwhile made it clear that they do not trust all their Russian counterparts.

Muslim rebel's supporters flee to hazy vision of safety

FROM ANTHONY LOYD IN VELIKA KLADUSHA, WESTERN BOSNIA

IN THE wake of the reoccupation of Velika Kladusha by Bosnian government forces, which brought to an end the year-long rebellion of Fikret Abdic, the road to the Croatian border is strewn with the vehicles and belongings of the rebel Muslim leader's fleeing supporters.

Cars, tractors and carts lie abandoned by those forced to run from the fighting. Among the vehicles are clothes, toys and old photographs looted from baggage by advancing or retreating troops. Bloodstains and the occasional corpse show that not all the refugees escaped the crossfire. For two days before the

final battle, refugees filled the mile-long stretch of road between Kladusha and the border at Maljevac, which is technically Croatian, but is actually the entry to land held by Serb forces since their war there two and-a-half years ago.

Beyond hazy notions of escape, few of those fleeing had any real knowledge of where they were going. "I don't want my family to live under an Islamic tyranny," one old man said. "I don't mind where I go. Anywhere but here."

According to estimates by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Zagreb, up to 24,000 of Mr Abdic's supporters may have fled into the Serb zone: a possible 14,000 sheltered in one of his former Agrokomerc

chicken farms near Stunji, another 7,000 near the UN base in Topusko, while a further 1,800 are still stranded by the roadside at Turanj. The Croatian government has refused to accept them, and they have become the latest pawns in the propaganda war of the various factions.

One brigade of the fugitive leader's troops are believed to have joined Serb forces in the demilitarised zone northeast of the Bihac enclave. Others, including Selja, the commander of Mr Abdic's "Popoye Group" special forces, have joined the groups going west. Yesterday Selja was grinning broadly, and still in uniform, outside a nearby Serb village. The refugees, called the "seduced people" by the

Bosnian 5th Corps, are mainly the victims of Mr Abdic's disinformation. Although a significant element are his former fighters and their families, most seem to be motivated by the groundless fears inspired by his warnings of impending doom at the hands of "Islamic fundamentalists".

The 5th Corps are far from fundamentalists, and their treatment of the civilians who stayed in Kladusha, many of whom were relatives of the victorious soldiers, appeared exemplary in its magnanimity and tolerance. General Atif Dudakovic, the corps commander, and the Bosnian government have made televised appearances asking the refugees to return to the town, guaranteeing their safety, and offer-

ing amnesty to the Abdic soldiers, a move the UNHCR is actively encouraging.

The former autonomous leader seems to have had few scruples in effecting their exodus: some were displaced by his forces at gunpoint. "Many of the refugees left as the result of Abdic's propaganda, others because they were forced to by his men. Of that I am absolutely sure," said Monique Tuffelli, the head of the UNHCR in Velika Kladusha.

With defeat looming, Mr Abdic knew that their flight would embarrass the Sarajevo government, which will find it difficult to escape the ironic implications, not lost on the Serbs, that Muslims are fleeing from Muslims and seeking sanctuary with Serbs.



Abdic: false warning about advancing 'fundamentalists'

Iraq bombing

Nicosia: A car bomb exploded in Baghdad, killing a child and wounding 13 people, the Iraqi INA news agency said. The vehicle blew up near the offices of the *al-Jumhuriya* newspaper, but there was only slight damage. (Reuters)

Cat woman shot

Gresham, Ohio: Police here shot and killed a woman who was holding her cat at knifepoint in a grocery store. She had threatened to kill the cat, then raised the knife and charged at police. One officer fired a shot, killing her. (AP)

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Bipartisan support for ban on assault weapons boosts battered President

Clinton focuses on health reform after crime Bill victory

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton made three wishes on his 48th birthday last Friday: passage of the crime Bill, a change in the way Washington works and a summer holiday where he would break 80 on the golf course. One down, one may be on the way and one to go.

The House of Representatives passed his crime Bill with bipartisan co-operation and some hard-won alterations, but it remains to be seen if that achievement will change the way Washington works when it comes to healthcare reform. Mr Clinton might get a holiday — a house awaits him at Martha's Vineyard — and he shot 80 last Saturday, so his golf is improving.

Mr Clinton was triumphant and invigorated yesterday after the weeks of punning he has taken over the initial defeat of the crime Bill, the Paula Jones sexual harassment case, Whitewater and his slumping approval ratings in the polls. If the Bill overcomes potential obstacles in the Senate and reaches his pen for signing, he will be able to boast to voters at the Congressional elections in November that he has broken the loathed "gridlock" in Washington.

That could help Democrats in their struggle to retain power on Capitol Hill.

The President told *USA Today* that the crime Bill compromises were steps towards changing Washington's "poisonous" atmosphere. He and his staff worked hard with leading Democrats in the House to win over 46 Republicans who, according to Mr Clinton, wanted a Bill that would enhance the lives of all law-abiding Americans. He said the negotiations reminded him of many during his time as Governor of Arkansas and prospects for healthcare would be much brighter "if we could get that same kind of relaxed conversation again".

In fact, Mr Clinton changed tactics from bashing the Republicans to courting them. "On all these tough issues, we have to try to work together across party lines," he said, "but we've also got to be firm on the principles behind what we're doing." The crime Bill went through by 40 votes, 235 to 195, without Mr Clinton giving up a ban on 19 varieties of semi-automatic assault weapons, despite enormous pressure from the National Rifle Association and the

defection of 64 Democrats, mostly from Southern, pro-gun districts.

The compromise Bill also made savings in crime prevention programmes that Republicans had denounced as nothing more than social-welfare largesse known to Americans as "pork", a term dating from the republic's earliest days when a pork barrel was seen as an easy way of currying favour among constituents.

The revised Bill also contained some remarkable social engineering that appealed to moderate Republicans, including a requirement that neighbours be told when a released sex offender moves into a community, mandatory HIV testing in rape trials and a rule allowing evidence about prior offences in sex cases. The Bill aims to put 100,000 more police on the streets, imposes life in prison for a third violent crime and makes more crimes punishable by death.

It would be a mistake, though, to assume that passage of the crime Bill means healthcare will follow. A new coalition must be found to reform medical and insurance networks.

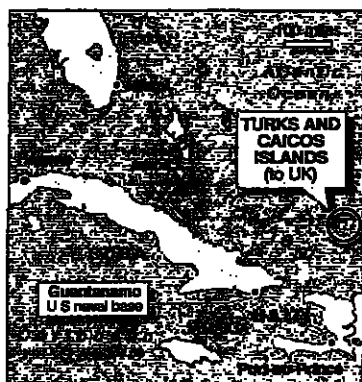
Defence cuts, page 1
Leading article, page 17

British islands earmarked to take boat people from Cuba

BY IAN BRODIE

BRITAIN has been asked by the United States to be ready to take up to 2,000 Cuban boat people into an emergency refugee camp in the Turks and Caicos Islands, a British possession in the Caribbean.

British officials and authorities on the self-governing islands were expected to approve the request, with the proviso that the refugees be housed only for a short time in the camp as a staging post to longer-term havens. There is concern that otherwise the resources of the thinly populated islands could be overwhelmed. The Cubans would be put into a camp built this summer on the island of Grand Turk, for Haitian boat people but not needed after the Haitians realised entry to the United States was no longer guaranteed. Grand Turk would be an overflow



for the camps at the US naval base at Guantanamo Bay in southeast Cuba. This base has a tent city of 15,000 Haitians and is now filling up with Cubans.

William Perry, the US Defence Secretary, flew to Key West, Florida,

yesterday to confer with US Coast Guard and navy officers about the continuing armada of home-made rafts from Cuba. The navy has contingency plans for as many as ten ships to join the fleet of Coast Guard patrol boats picking up refugees in the Straits of Florida.

The Coast Guard plucked 1,293 Cubans from the sea on Sunday, the highest daily total since the 1980 Mariel boatlift. Many had set off before President Clinton imposed the ban on entry four days ago. But others were still leaving, unhindered by President Castro's police.

In Washington, officials confirmed that Leon Panetta, White House Chief of Staff, was referring to cutting off Cuba's trade with other countries when he said a blockade was an option. But officials travelling with Mr Perry said a blockade was not at the top of Pentagon plans.



President Clinton emerging from the Oval Office in happy mood after his crime Bill was passed by the House of Representatives

Seven UN soldiers killed in Somalia

BY SAM KILEY
AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

SEVEN United Nations peacekeepers were killed and six wounded in Somalia yesterday in a battle with militiamen commanded by the warlord, General Muhammad Farrah Aidid.

In June last year, militiamen killed 24 Pakistani blue helmets, precipitating a war between General Aidid and combined UN and American forces which ended in defeat for the foreigners.

Yesterday Indian peacekeepers were ambushed southwest of the capital, Mogadishu, coming under fire from anti-aircraft cannon, mortars and small arms. The attack, which follows General Aidid's demand that the UN compensate him for deaths of gunmen during last year's fighting with the intervention forces, is likely to accelerate an Indian withdrawal.

The Indian contingent, numbering about 5,000, could face the prospect of a fighting retreat to the beaches, with Somali gunmen bent on looting their equipment, close on their heels.

Yesterday the military spokesman for UN Operation in Somalia, Major Richard McDonald, said the attack on the Indian convoy in the village of Burleego, 70 miles from Mogadishu, was "an unprovoked and carefully co-ordinated ambush".

He said that a number of the Somali battle wagons known as "technical" were also destroyed in the fighting, which lasted several hours. The UN did not have details of Somali casualties.

The Indian contingent in Somalia has for the past two weeks been moving out of outlying areas into concentrations close to the coast which would allow it to make a swift departure from a country descending into the sort of banditry that caused the 1992 famine.

The Indians have pulled out of Belet Huen in central Somalia and have closed their smaller bases in the south. In the port of Kismayu they are crammed into the dock area, leaving the rest of the town to gunmen.

NEWS IN BRIEF



Pérez de Cuéllar joins Peru presidential race

President's wife backs his rival

Lima: Peru's First Lady has welcomed the surprise entry of Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the former UN Secretary-General, into the April 1995 presidential election race against her husband, President Fujimori.

Susana Higuchi de Fujimori, who has moved out of the presidential palace after a row, said: "I want to publicly congratulate Javier Pérez de Cuéllar..." (AFP)

Links reformed

Hanoi: America and Vietnam are exchanging diplomatic missions after nearly 40 years. Full diplomatic relations will follow a satisfactory accounting for servicemen still "missing in action". (AP)

Cairo hangings

Cairo: Egypt hanged five Muslim militants for trying to kill Hassan al-Ahli, the Interior Minister, last August. They were the last of 15 militants to be executed for attacks on ministers. (Reuters)

Private affair

Canberra: The Australian Government says it will legislate to ensure that homosexual sex in private is legal throughout the country, overturning controversial laws in Tasmania. (Reuters)

No sweat

Ankara: Men in the Turkish town of Adana have been banned from kissing in public. An official said it was unhygienic in summer. "Just imagine what could happen with all that sweat." (Reuters)

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Losers allege corruption after Zedillo declares himself winner of 'exemplary' poll

Fraud outcry as Mexico's ruling party hails another big victory

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MEXICO CITY

ERNESTO Zedillo, candidate for the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), appeared yesterday to have won a crushing victory in Mexico, extending the party's 65-year rule.

Predictions of victory brought immediate accusations of fraud. With about 20 per cent of votes counted, the PRI led with 47 per cent, nearly one million votes ahead of Diego Fernández of the National Action Party (PAN) with 31 per cent, leaving Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas, of the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), trailing with only 15 per cent.

The frequency of irregularities is highly worrying. Sergio Aguayo, chief organiser of Civic Alliance, the largest observer group that monitored the elections, said. Reports filed by Civic Alliance volunteers assigned to 741 polling places found nearly 9

per cent of the booths permitted people who had indelible ink on their thumbs — a sign that they had already voted at another booth — to cast ballots. Just over 6 per cent of the booths had no ink to mark the fingers of people who had voted, and nearly 8 per cent of the booths had ink that could be washed off. Señor Aguayo said.

Leaders of both the PAN and the PRD accused Señor Zedillo of running a corrupt and unjust campaign, involving lies, intimidation, and the abuse of public resources and funds. Although Señor Fernández did not challenge the results, Señor Cárdenas alleged numerous irregularities that "put at risk the whole electoral process".

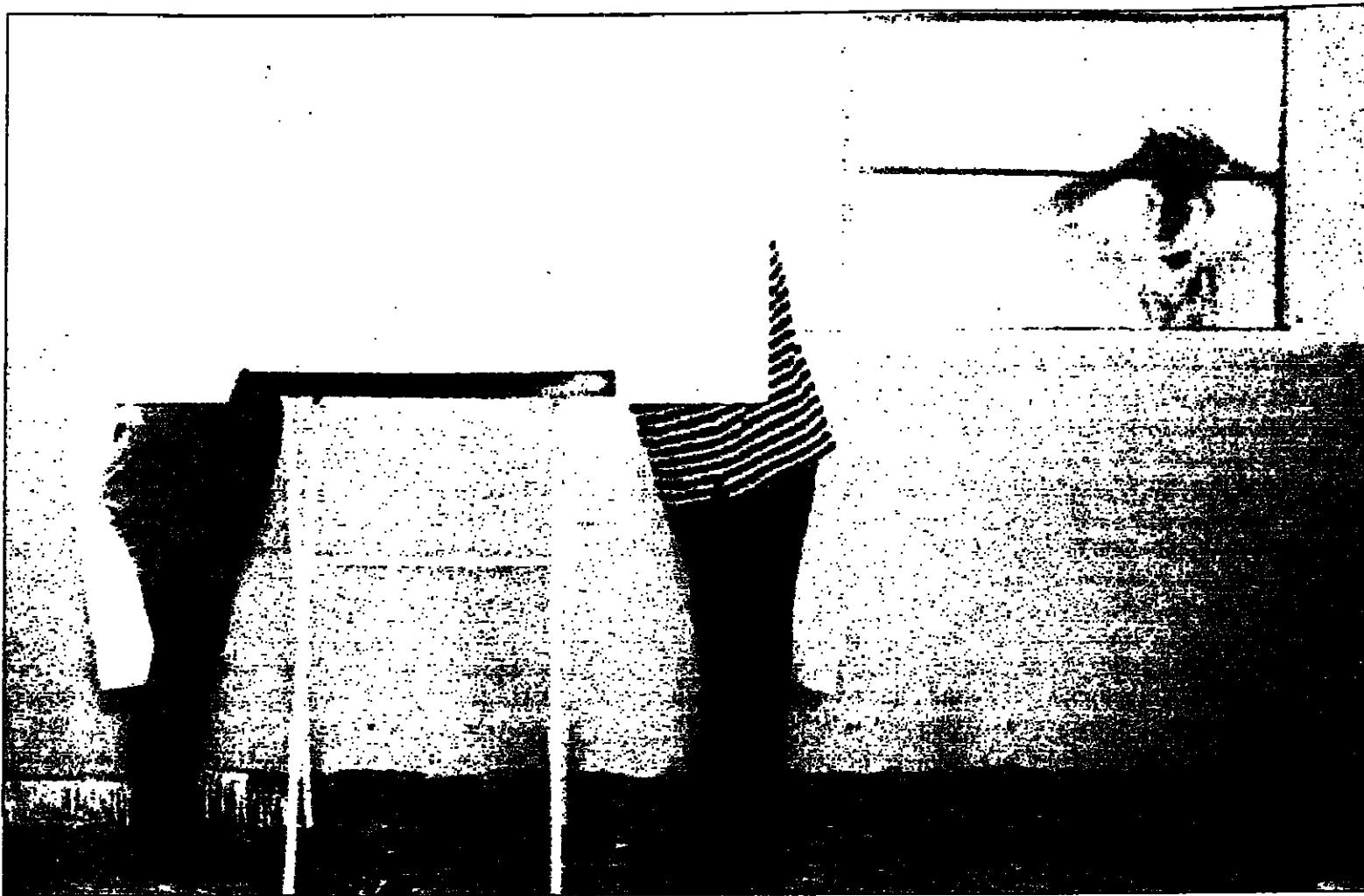
He called on his supporters to rally in the city centre in what some analysts said could be the start of a protracted campaign to demand an investigation of the fraud charges. Left-wing supporters of the Zapatista peasant army, which rebelled in the southern state of Chiapas in January, also called for a peaceful "civil insurgency" to defend voter rights.

The PRI said it will prevent the opposition from blocking streets and occupying public buildings. Special anti-riot police were mobilised last night to defend public offices, including the Electoral Institute.

Señor Cárdenas said he was prepared for the time being to give the government the benefit of the doubt, but said perhaps several million people were unable to vote after their names were "shaved" from the electoral register. "We will defend the rights of all those who could not vote," he said.



Cárdenas: called on his voters to attend rally



A boy waiting patiently outside a polling booth at Juárez while his mother votes in the Mexican parliamentary elections and, below, Ernesto Zedillo, flanked by his wife, Nilda Patricia, and son, Ernesto, proclaiming victory over his rivals as electoral results were still pouring in

Señor Cárdenas said he did not want to enter into "a battle of figures" but cited election-day polls done by a group sympathetic to his party which put him in first place with 38 per cent. However, a survey of independently observed results by the Civic Alliance, a United Nations-funded, pro-opposition group, almost entirely matched the official results.

"The electoral trends are clear, Zedillo won," said Señor Aguayo. "However, we have reason to suspect how he won the election," he added.

Despite attempting to sound modest in victory, Señor Zedillo was courting foreign journalists behind the scenes even before voting ended to declare himself the winner. He called the election "exemplary" and made no mention of the irregularities. As if following a pre-arranged script, he declared victory minutes after the government-controlled Electoral Institute issued the first official results based on only 15 per cent of the vote. Señor Zedillo ignored an

appeal by Arturo Nunez, director of the Electoral Institute, who warned the parties not to draw conclusions from these early results.

Bleary-eyed journalists walked away from his pre-dawn victory speech puzzling how he could have pulled off such a comfortable win, despite strong public support for the opposition. The PRI has ruled Mexico for 65 years, overcoming past election upsets by employing elaborate forms of fraud.

Señor Zedillo, 42, an American-educated economist, was an unknown grey bureaucrat when he was selected as a substitute for the original PRI candidate, Luis Colosio, who was assassinated at a campaign rally in March. A former budget and education minister, he has never previously held an elected office.

Señor Cárdenas is the son of a much loved former president and was a top PRI official before he defected from the party in 1987 and ran as an opposition presidential candidate a year later.

Striking lecturers defy junta in Nigeria

Lagos: University lecturers went on strike yesterday, joining a growing protest campaign for an end to military rule in Nigeria.

Many other workers have defied a warning by the government that they would be sacked if they stayed away from work. (AFP)

Battering row

Harare: Daniso Dabengwa, Zimbabwean Home Affairs Minister, has said women should get together and beat wife-batterers. The comment at a Women's Action Group meeting was condemned in the media. (AFP)

Manila rally

Manila: Filipino women forced to have sex with Japanese soldiers during the Second World War demonstrated outside Japan's Embassy on the eve of a visit by Tomihiko Moriyama, the Prime Minister. (Reuters)

Bald obedience

Jakarta: An elderly Muslim hermit in West Java, whose hair was more than 98 long, has had his head shaved on the anniversary of the Prophet Muhammad's birthday, after being told in a dream to have his hair cut. (AFP)

Prince killed

Rabat: The Kuwaiti prince who was among 44 people killed in a Moroccan airliner crash was Prince Ali Mahmoud al-Jaber al-Sabah, brother of the Defence Minister. (Reuters)

Boy racer

Hong Kong: A couple here have been charged with allowing their seven-year-old son to drive their Mercedes in a car park. Michael Shek wants to be a racing driver when he grows up. (AP)

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THE TIMES TUESDAY AUGUST 23 1994

Boss of bosses turns 90 in a China where all is for sale

■ Unsensational and ruthless, Deng Xiaoping is respected for his age and historical fame. But Jonathan Mirsky, East Asia Editor, writes that he will leave behind a country gravely divided

DENG Xiaoping was born 90 years ago yesterday in Paifang village in west China's Sichuan province and since he left the place at the age of 14 he has never returned.

This is instructive for two reasons. Firstly, Mr Deng moves through life unsentimentally. Like anyone else, his life is full of embarrassments — a landlord family, a failed marriage, betrayals of and by those close to him — but he has taken special care to cover his tracks.

Furthermore, he has helped create two Chinas, one rich and one poor, and Paifang is definitely poor. This week a villager said of Paifang's one claim to fame: "According to Deng's policy, it is glorious to get rich, so as the home town of this policy's architect, Paifang should be developed."

In the village, they are trying to turn the big house where Deng's landlord family lived into a tourist attraction, but whether this takes off depends on how Mr Deng is handled by the party after he has gone to see Marx as he and his comrades quietly put it. Except as an icon, Mao was shoved aside within five years of his death in

1976. Mr Deng's disciples, who are also contenders for his mantle, must be wondering if some time after The Death there will be a re-evaluation of the significance of Tiananmen Square.

This is a matter of interest to more than a few dissident intellectuals. In the spring of 1989 there were Tiananmen all over China, involving millions of students, workers, soldiers and police, applauded by a generally sympathetic press. At least a million people in Peking alone were involved.

Before the disturbances began in April 1989, it was said that the Chinese were only interested in making money. Yet within weeks they were massed outside the leadership compound in the Forbidden City shouting "Down with Deng Xiaoping".

The 1989 demands for an end to official corruption, a free press and the rule of law are not forgotten, nor are the memories of the bloody aftermath. A true reckoning would result in unpleasant consequences for some of China's present senior leaders.

Other possibilities after Mr Deng dies include another Tiananmen, probably not in Pe-



Deng Xiaoping, who has lived by the iron laws of power politics, receiving a kiss from a grandchild

king. It could start in one of the now endemic riots by peasants or workers desperate at the prospect of joining the tens of millions already wandering through the country looking for work. This time local security forces might not contain the disturbance. That is how the Manchu dynasty suddenly collapsed in 1911, just when its internal reforms, including a de-

gree of democratisation, had begun to catch hold. On the other hand, the rich and poor parts of China may slowly come apart.

In the near future the most likely scenario is a collective leadership, clustered around Jiang Zemin, the state President and party General Secretary whom Mr Deng has designated "the core". Once Mr Deng is gone, President Jiang will

be seen as little more than an ambitious man, badly out of his depth. Mr Deng holds none of the supreme party or state offices; he is simply the senior leader. But his merest utterance, deconstructed by his daughters, remains the final word. While it remains true that at every level of Chinese society great age is venerated, Mr Deng is above all one of the hallowed *lao yidai de*

gemingjia, the very first revolutionary elite, who joined the party as a teenager within three or four years of its official founding in 1921.

He survived a bloody little military campaign in southwest China against Chiang Kai-shek's forces in 1929-1930 that went wrong. It is possible he abandoned his troops to save himself. He also survived the Long March of 1934-1935, on which many marchers died, the Civil War and the Cultural Revolution.

Along the way he was secretary to the Central Committee in the late 1920s, one of the handful of senior commanders in the key battles of the 1945-1949 Civil War, a member of the central committee and finally, by 1956, party Secretary-General. In short, Mr Deng has the invaluable qualifications of historical fame and of having held key offices.

Like most Chinese leaders since the 1850s, Mr Deng yearned for *fuqiang*, a China that was "rich and strong". There is, however, little of what George Bush called "the vision thing", an ideal of a prosperous civil society. This explains the emergence in the last decade of two Chinas.

Deal-makers from north to south, high-rollers in limousines, turn out to be either former Red Guards or, more astonishingly, former Tiananmen demonstrators. This is the China of stock markets, currency swaps and bankruptcies, where everything is for sale, from a

single bed in a hospital to a senior leader's calligraphy on a shopfront.

Then there is the other China, not dripping with gold, of tens of millions of illiterate, school leavers, employers who refuse to hire women, high medical bills, 200 million unemployed peasants, environmental degradation, crashing planes, criminal gangs, drugs, prostitution and Aids.

Over this has ruled Deng Xiaoping, a boss of bosses, who thinks of China as "Cosa Nostra," our thing, the party's creation, and who will imprison or, if necessary, crush under a tank any man or woman who dreams of transforming China — as the teenage Deng did in 1924 when he worked under Chou En-lai in the party's Paris network.

The collapse of the Soviet empire has been of great use to Mr Deng, giving many Chinese and some foreigners the assurance that economic change and political oppression are the keys to successful modernisation in the Third World. But how modern is a country which can not see five minutes into the future after the death of its already ailing leader?

Lucien Pye, a veteran American China-watcher, summed up a recent consideration of Mr Deng by noting that the annals of history include only a small chapter for economic reformers. "The big chapters are reserved for those leaders who brought political freedom and security to their people."

Petition appeal launched to save Taj Mahal

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIAN environmentalists have launched an international campaign to raise a million signatures demanding action to save the Taj Mahal. The "shimmering dream in white marble" of the tourist brochures is yellow, crumbling and pockmarked. In a few years the damage may be irreversible.

The Indian Council for Environmental Action, which held a weekend conference on the Taj crisis, wants Agra, where the monument is located, declared a heritage city. It is one of India's filthiest towns, its streets a bedlam of vehicles, its outskirts jammed with smogstack industries that create pollution levels well above the danger limit for humans. It is one of the country's fastest-growing cities, with a population of seven million.

Successive administrations have ignored the decay of Emperor Shah Jahan's 17th-century monument to his wife, Mumtaz Mahal. The Supreme Court ordered the government to act immediately, fearing that time was running out, but there is still no sign of official urgency and certainly no end to the choking pollution.

The air immediately around the Taj is thick with traffic fumes, and every monsoon brings another coating

of grime that eats into the marble. The Mathura power station near by dumps a ton of sulphur dioxide into the atmosphere every day, and desert dust in the dry season gnaws at the weakened stone. Unqualified workers have been seen scrubbing at the stone with chemicals, perhaps doing irreparable damage, to try to make it white again.

The Taj has "marble cancer," leaving it stained and weak. Some slabs have disintegrated so badly they have had to be replaced; they stand out starkly white against the rest. Environmentalists are seeking signatures from schools, colleges, environmental groups and individuals at home and abroad to force the government to take drastic steps.

The weekend conference in Delhi demanded immediate measures, including the banning of vehicles from within two miles of the Taj. It said the hundreds of thousands of tourists who visited the monument annually should do so by horse-drawn carts and cycle rickshaws. Any vehicles should be battery-driven.

Long-term measures were also sought, including control of industrial pollutants and, if necessary, an appeal by the Indian government to the world community for funds to save the Taj.



Agra's pollution is eating away the Taj Mahal's marble

Aborigines sue for Ned Kelly reward

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN BRISBANE

ABORIGINES want \$440 million (£19 million) from a state government for not paying a reward promised to two ancestors who tracked down Ned Kelly, Australia's most celebrated outlaw, last century.

John Lee Jones, an Aboriginal spokesman, said that lawyers for the Ngulungbara, Batchala and Dalmagbara people would launch a case against Victoria in the Brisbane supreme court tomorrow. "They are the 1,430 descendants of the trackers" Wannamutta and Uthung, who helped hunt down Ned Kelly," Mr Jones said yesterday.

In 1880, Victoria police called in the trackers from the northern state of Queensland to help find Kelly, who was wanted for a series of murders, stagecoach hold-ups and bank robberies. Mr Jones said the two men were

offered £50 from a total reward of £8,000 but were never paid after Kelly was caught in a police ambush.

"They were at the forefront and under heavy gunfire throughout the day Ned Kelly was captured on June 28, 1880," Mr Jones said. He added that the \$440 million being sought included 114 years of compound interest.

Wannamutta and Uthung were experts in traditional tracking techniques used for thousands of years by Aborigines for hunting and were regarded by police as highly useful in helping to find criminals and lost people.

Kelly wore armour made of flattened ploughshares to protect him from the police bullets and was captured only after he was shot in his unprotected legs. He was hanged on November 11, 1880.

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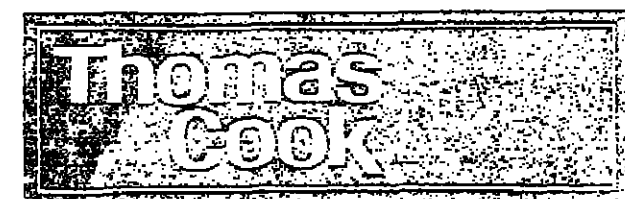
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A right royal muddle

Why does the Princess of Wales pour her heart out to the press? Julia Llewellyn Smith looks at the dilemmas of poor Diana

In children's stories, the Sleeping Beauty slept for 100 years until Prince Charming arrived to wake her with a kiss. In the nation's favourite fairytale, whose Disney-like glitter was long ago replaced by a Brothers Grimm horror story, the plot takes an opposite twist. The young and beautiful Lady Diana Spencer marries a handsome prince whose kiss seems to send her into a trance.

For years the Princess of Wales smiled, waved, bore heirs and grew thinner, and in all that time she scarcely uttered a public word. Apart from the odd quip about being as "thick as a plank", the occasional thank you message and an interview she and Charles granted Sir Alastair Burnet in 1985, her voice was never heard.

But gradually the rumour mill started churning with hints that all was not perfect at the palace. And at the same time, the Princess began to wake up. She started to speak about hugging her children, about eating disorders and about her wish to "disappear like a Disprin". She blushed and stuttered and gazed coyly from under her fringe, but she still had opinions, and many more people wanted to hear them than her stuffy husband's musings on plants and architecture.

Then, in December last year at a charity lunch, the Princess made the biggest speech to date. It was also, if she was to be believed, her last. She was bowing out from public life and she pleaded with the media to give her some space. She would, she said, be "seeking a more meaningful public role, within hopefully a more private life".

It was a sincere request, yet it was riddled with contradictions. Diana was asking to be left alone, while at the same time admitting that she could not abandon her public persona. And after all, why should she? After the initial hiccup, she had taken her royal duties extremely seriously, embracing (literally) causes such as Aids that no other member of the royal family would touch, and impressing observers with her understanding and empathy.

Her public work has been the only successful part of her life. The happy private life she longs for has never materialised, and it will never be able to, so long as she wishes to carry on with her work.

Diana was also begging for freedom from the press pack who, ever since she posed for them in a see-through skirt, had dogged her every move. Yet despite her distance for the brasher paparazzi, her lonely and itinerant life meant the "rat pack" was one of the few constants in her life. Many had evolved into friends. "The one lot of people who were good to her were the press," says Judy Wade, the royal correspondent for *Hello!* magazine. "Arthur Edwards [the *Sun's* royal photographer] was like a second father to her."

The same could be said of her servants. Diana announced she wanted to do away with her royal minders, yet she was reported to be very distressed

when her chauffeur and bodyguard were removed. The entourage that would forever mark her off as public property were also the only people she could relax with.

So when the latest storm broke in the Sunday papers, with reports that Diana had been making nuisance calls to her art-dealer friend Oliver Hoare, Diana sought redress from the *Daily Mail's* royal reporter, Richard Kay. Kay's colleagues say the Princess had marked him as a potential ally on a press trip to Zimbabwe last year. On Sunday Kay took her for a drive around London, in which, in his words, "she poured out her anger and unhappiness".

When asked if there was any truth in the story that she had made calls from telephone boxes in Kensington, Diana replied: "You can't be serious. I don't even know how to use a parking meter."

It was yet another example of her muddle. This thoroughly modern princess takes her sons to DisneyWorld and McDonald's, and reportedly discovered her husband's affair with Camilla Parker Bowles by pressing the last-number-redial button on his phone to see who he had been calling. A few months ago, she laughed and apologised for abusing her position, by asking a policeman to guard her car on a double-yellow line. Yet when confronted, she slips back into royal isolation.

It was the first time Diana had spoken directly to the press, but many people believe she has been co-operating indirectly for years. She is believed to have spoken through friends to the journalist Andrew Morton, when he was writing his book *Diana: Her True Story*, which first revealed the extent of the Princess's unhappiness.

Over the past year these friends have been quick to pass on tips about Diana's "secret" visits to hostels for the homeless, and how her mobile phone (phones crop up with uncanny regularity in Diana stories) was used to call an ambulance for a drowning tramp.

"I'm not surprised she resorts to Kay," says Ms Wade. "Prince Charles's friends go around saying how unstable she is. She's up against it, so she turns to the press and public opinion, as they have usually supported her in the past."

While the rest of us have decided that we no longer believe in fairytale, Diana is trapped within one. She wants to find herself, yet she does not know what might be there, outside *Vogue* covers, shaking hands with pop stars and having tea with battered wives. Her position as the mother of the future King of England links her inextricably to her in-laws. If she were to divorce and remarry it would have to be abroad, cutting her off from the people she loves best in the world, her sons. No one has told the Princess that we all define normality differently. If she were to attain the obscurity she seeks, she would not find it "normal" at all.



Dark view of the world — the Princess of Wales has little chance of achieving a "normal" life

It's official: infidelity is in the genes

Wild oats? Irresistible

GOOD NEWS for the rake and the temptress, bad news for the moral majority and Victorian values: adultery is genetic. Infidelity is as natural as eating or sleeping, according to a new book. No longer should monogamy be considered a distinguishing characteristic of mankind without also noting the all-too-human tendency towards extra-marital affairs and worse.

This theory is being put about by a growing band of evolutionary psychologists on both sides of the Atlantic, but it has taken concrete form this month in a book by Robert Wright *The Moral Animal*, which has scandalised the American family values movement. It has been a rude awakening for those who have always clung fondly to Desmond Morris's suggestion in his bestseller *The Naked Ape* that human beings were a "pair-bonding" species.

True, there is pair bonding, but it can happen over and over again in one lifetime. "The zoologists' theory of pair bonding for life perhaps had some wishful thinking behind it; that's what it looked like on the surface, and it was easier to ignore the ugly truth," says Wright. The bad news on humankind's lack of fidelity parallels recent discoveries about other previously "monogamous" species: female swallows have secret trysts with male swallows who possess a longer tail than their mates, and the philandering indigo bunting has a cuckoldry rate of 40 per cent.

Infidelity seems to be part of natural selection, the man trying to impregnate as many women as possible and spread his genes far and wide; the woman picking a fine physical or mental specimen to breed with, often secretly, while keeping a lesser husband at her side for security. Evolutionary psychologists look to biology as their first source of evidence on natural adultery. In apes, the relative weight of the male's testicles correlates with the female's tendency to promiscuity. In chimpanzees, the male's testicles are heavy compared to body weight, while the females are notorious husband-swappers. Gibbons, with a low testicle weight, are relatively monogamous. Human testicles come roughly between the two, indicating that women "are by nature somewhat adventurous" and men need volume to ensure their father more children.

Another natural trait, which is designed to compensate for infidelity in women is that when a woman has been out of sight for a week or so, on holiday or a business trip, the

man suddenly gets a higher sperm count, much higher than if the couple had been at home together and just not had sex for a week.

The first problem with the pair-bond thesis is that women are not by nature paragons of fidelity. Wanderlust is an innate part of their minds ready to surface when circumstances allow," says Mr Wright, himself a happily married man with two children. "The second problem is that if you think women are bad, you should see men."

Historically, men have been rather inclined to bigamy or even polygyny. Mr Wright claims the tradition shows up in two thirds of past or present human societies so far studied. Men also favour casual relationships or one-night stands more than women — in a study done at Hawaii University, students were asked after a brief introduction to an attractive person of the opposite sex whether they would like to go out socially, and whether they would like to have sex with them that night. Half of both the male and female

sample said they would be happy to go on a date, but none of the women said they would have sex, compared with 75 per cent of the men.

Another study by evolutionary psychologists at Michigan University shows that women are at their most jealous when a partner seems to be having a strong emotional relationship with someone else, whereas men are mainly jealous of sexual infidelity. Men sweated when asked to imagine sexual infidelity in their wives, but took the thought of a growing emotional attachment relatively calmly.

OF COURSE, contraception nowadays means there is no genetic payoff from the zealous instinct, yet hasty kind does not appear able to stop itself. There is also the growing trait of serial monogamy — a number of partnerships or marriages and divorces. "In a way serial monogamy is tantamount to polygyny," says Mr Wright. "It means one man can monopolise a series of women — his first, second and third wives — during their child-bearing years, ensuring another male will not have children with them."

Mr Wright says he is not condoning these natural impulses. "The more we understand about this part of human nature, the easier it is to fight it. We should not forget the success of Victorian England in keeping most people married for life, with very little fooling around."



KATE MUIR

Recipe for life saving

...the hell out of people, but I do not think gore, in itself, is scary. Psychological terror, Hitchcock-type stuff, is much more interesting.

"Can children cope with it? Of course. They are more sophisticated than you think. I do not write down to them; the only difference from my adult novels is the age of the characters. It is nonsense to say horror is damaging — I never glorify violence or suggest it as a solution to anything. At the same time, you cannot moralise — the kids would be onto it immediately. I just try to ensure that the central characters have a basic perception of right and wrong."

Pike clearly has no intention of harming anyone. He declares himself a lover of children, although he has none of his own and is not married. "I feel like I just got out of high school," he says. "The 20 years since graduation seem like a dream. When my mom asks when I am going to get married I tell her I am too young."

"I am prolonging my youth in books. When I was at school I never dated anyone, and I was really shy. I just used to read a lot. In my books the kids get to do all these crazy things. Maybe children's writers are childish, or innocent. Or maybe we're just immature."

It may even have something to do with a blurring of the line between fiction and reality. While censorious adults will continue to condemn youthful consumption of schlock horror, Pike will remain impervious to their outrage. Grown-ups do not worry him. "One girl I dated recently left me because I was always writing. I put her in *The Last Vampire*. But then I killed her in the sequel."

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE: DAY 3

Win a Club Med holiday in the US

THIS is the third of three weeks in which *The Times* is offering readers a chance to win one of three Club Med holidays to France, Greece, and America. And £100 worth of traveller's cheques can be won every day by entering and solving our crossword challenges.

This week's Crossword Challenge is all about America — we are offering readers the chance to win a holiday for two to the Club Med village of Sandpiper in Port St Lucie, Florida, 45 miles north of Palm Beach. The prize — worth more than £3,000 — includes flights and transfers to and from the village, and full board, wine with meals, sports, entertainment and insurance.

TO ENTER THE CONTEST To enter, solve the crossword clues printed in *The Times* every day this week. The first seven clues were printed in *Weekend* last Saturday, August 20, and write them on the crossword grid that was also printed on Saturday. When you have solved all the clues and completed the grid, send it with your name, address and daytime telephone number to: *The Times Crossword Challenge*, 30 Boulevard Street, London EC6B 4NG, to arrive no later than Friday, September 2.

Today, readers also have the chance to win £100 worth of traveller's cheques in the denomination of their choice courtesy of The Travel Bureau. To enter, simply solve the crossword clues printed today and phone your answers to our competition hotline number.

HOTLINE: 0839 444 574 The telephone lines will be open until midnight tonight. You will be asked to leave your answers, with your name, address and daytime telephone number.

The winner will be selected from all correct entries received after the closing date and the next hour asking that no photograph should be used. "They took a kind of abstract one in the lift, just the side of my face. I suppose you could use that one if you must." Such was the extent to which he would compromise his anonymity.

"No one knows what I look like," he explained, "when I see a kid take one of my books off a shelf I sometimes say 'I know him' — if I said 'I am him', they wouldn't believe me. It's good to be unknown. If they did meet me they would have to be disappointed. Your heroes always turn out to be ordinary."

"Ordinary" would be a reasonable way to describe Christopher Pike. He is unassuming, giggly, inclining to rotundity, and admits, blushing, that he will be 40 in

Christopher Pike's girlfriend left him, so he put her in a book and killed her off. Giles Coren reports

Grown-ups don't worry the prince of horror

'Maybe children's writers are childish, or innocent. Or maybe immature'

November. Asked to account for the success of his books in Britain they are, after all, concerned with "jocks, cheerleaders, kids who go to high school proms, he tries desperately to be helpful. "I think they are good stories," he says, "and I think a good story is a good story. Everybody likes a good story. I'm a sucker for a good story. Whether it takes place here or there doesn't matter. Plus I deal with universal issues."

The universal issue thing, on penul of four or five of the books, does not hold up. Witness, for example, the opening lines of *Remember Me*, the most successful of Pike's books, and one of his personal favourites. "Most people would probably call me a ghost. I am, after all, dead. But I don't think of myself that way. It wasn't so long ago that I was alive, you see." Death is universal, but it is not really treated as an issue, more as a device, a concept that allows Pike to spin his mysteries around a suitably melodramatic centre. And there is lots of it.

There is casual, off-hand death. "He had been a person of extremes. It ran in the family. No wonder both parents had died of heart attacks before the age of sixty." There is technical death, as



For a young so unashamedly populist in his writing, Christopher Pike is painfully publicity-shy

when a young diver dies from an air embolism after a chum deliberately tampers with his diving gear.

And there is gruesome death. "...curled up on his bed with a gun in his mouth and specks of brain and skull on the pillow." It is this that has caused a bit of an outcry in blue-rinse circles. Not content that children are at least reading, critics complain that they should not be exposed to Pike's gore and horror. "The hostility towards me is misplaced," says the author. "*Time* magazine did a

full page on me because some kid who had died had read my books. They asked if I felt responsible and I said 'no, do you?' After all, they are the ones who write about violence all the time. This kid had read some Stephen King and some Christopher Pike, and he watched MTV and *Beavis & Butt-head* — which is all most kids in the States do. But the *Time* guy had not even read my books."

If he had, it is more likely that he would have written about the gory slaughter of the English language than any corporal travesty — sentences such as "numerous black spots floated around her pupils like black holes drifting in a tropical sea" do not so much mix metaphors as toss them wantonly into a seething cauldron of misuse.

But Pike cites his influences as Tolkien, King and Ray Bradbury — he does not suffer from literary pretensions, and many of his books take no more than ten days to write. He also insists that he is principally a writer of mystery stories. "No more than a third of my books are strictly 'horror'," he says, "but I am not ashamed of them. I want to

ACROSS

4 Laundry not damaged? Capital! (10)

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THE THIRD SIX CLUES, WEEK 3

Oral contraception for men is ready for testing. But fear of litigation may delay its use indefinitely, reports Nigel Hawkes

Male Pill strangled at birth?

Have you taken your pill, darling? asks an anxious wife as her husband cosies up to her. "Of course, of course," he replies testily. "And I've had my three-month jab."

This happy scene, we have been often promised, lies just a gentle jog over the horizon. Men, so long denied a fair share of the contraceptive burden, will be able to reduce their sperm counts to zero by chemical means, finally catching up with women who have been able to control their fertility with pills for more than 30 years.

This week doctors at St Mary's Hospital in Manchester called for 24 volunteers to test a male pill. Every day they will take a pill containing desogestrel, a hormone drug, which will suppress sperm production. And once a week they will have an injection of the male sex hormone testosterone, so they do not lose all male sexual characteristics, such as facial hair.

Many specialists in contraception believe that a male pill is an absolute necessity. Work has been going on for years, and earlier this month a German scientist, Professor Eberhard Nieschlag of the University of Munster, declared that the technical problems were solved and the only obstacles in the way of success were the Church, the government, and the pharmaceutical companies. With enemies like these, who needs friends?

The evidence from trials like the one being launched in Manchester is that men are unexpectedly willing to participate. The real difficulty remains the indifference of the drug companies, who have shown little interest in a market that is huge but bristles with

potential liability suits. In the past two decades, says Dr Carl Djerassi of Stanford University, one of the fathers of the female pill, the big drug houses have mostly opted out of contraceptive research.

The torch has been carried by organisations such as the Medical Research Council, the US National Institutes of Health and the World Health Organisation. In a series of trials, the WHO has shown that injections of testosterone once a week are a highly effective male contraceptive. More than 700 men have had the jabs and their spouses have recorded only one pregnancy, in China.

It may appear a paradox that injections of the male hormone will make a man infertile, but it works



like this. The higher level of testosterone in the body sends a message to the pituitary gland, in the hypothalamus, blocking the release of two hormones responsible for stimulating the testes into sperm production. In this way, the injections confuse the brain into thinking the testes are working flat out, when they are not.

The WHO trials show that in half of the men, sperm production falls to zero. A second trial,

completed earlier this year, shows that even those who continue to produce sperm in small quantities are infertile.

The Manchester trials also seek to switch off sperm production, but by using a progestogen to block the production of the two key hormones in the hypothalamus. That could leave the men so short of testosterone that they would begin to lose masculine characteristics, so weekly injections of the hormone will be given. The trial will be carried out over six months, on three groups of men aged between 19 and 45, to compare the effects of different doses.

Side-effects shown in past trials include modest weight gain and acne-like spots, in some men.

There is no real effect on libido, though some evidence that men on the pill may be more easily aroused. Men regained fertility in about four months after coming off the treatment. Dr Fred Wu, consultant physician at Manchester who is running the trial, believes that if there were backing from a big drug company, a male pill could be marketed within two to five years.

That, however, is a substantial if. Thirty years ago there were more than a dozen big drug companies doing research in the field: now only four show any interest, according to Dr Djerassi. The companies, especially in America, were frightened off by an onslaught of litigation in the 1970s

over the alleged side-effects of the female pill. The last thing they want is to repeat the experience with the male pill. Dr Wu believes that the companies' reluctance is "pervasive" but says it applies to all new contraceptives, not just the male pill.

Without a really big investment in development and safety testing, the potential of the male pill is likely to remain unrealised. Before it could be sold, it would need to be tested on thousands of people, and better protocols developed so that injections could be given three-monthly rather than weekly.

There is no law that says this cannot be achieved without the drug houses, but the odds are it cannot. So if you are a truly modern man who would like to take charge of his own fertility, condoms and vasectomies are likely to remain the unpalatable alternatives for a decade at least. Roll over, darling, and go to sleep.

Recipe for life saving

Diarrhoea kills children every day — yet a simple home-made remedy is available. Dr Trisha Greenhalgh reports on a Third World scandal

The refugee camps in Goma have already seen two epidemics of diarrhoeal disease — cholera and shigella dysentery. Large-scale outbreaks of these highly virulent infections are rare except in conditions of overcrowding and poor sanitation. But recurrent tummy aches, caused by common viruses such as rotavirus and coli, are as much a fact of life in the tropics as the common cold is in Britain.

Such agents only become killers when patients are malnourished, debilitated or inappropriately treated. Nevertheless, diarrhoeal disease is the commonest cause of child mortality in the developing world, with an estimated 1,500 million episodes and up to 10 million deaths annually.

Whatever the underlying infection, most diarrhoea-related deaths are primarily due to dehydration. This happens in two ways: in simple (non-secretory) diarrhoea, damage occurs to the cells which absorb fluid from the gut. In cholera-type (secretory) diarrhoea, the infectious agent also throws into overdrive certain cells which transfer fluid and salt out of the body and back into the gut cavity.

Cholera diarrhoea is often rapid in onset and frighteningly profuse. The volume of fluid lost must be measured and matched every hour to avoid both under and over-replacement. In some places, this is still done via the crude but pragmatic "cholera cot" — a bed with a hole cut in the middle and a bucket underneath.

The discovery that glucose (sugar) and sodium (from salt) are absorbed together, molecule for molecule, across the gut wall was described in a *Lancet* editorial in 1974 as "one of the greatest medical breakthroughs of the 20th century" and forms the principle be-

hind oral rehydration therapy (ORT).

A specific transport protein, sodium-glucose cotransporter, waits for one molecule of each to take their seats and shifts them in tandem across the gut wall, with water following by osmosis (chemical suction). Even if a high proportion of the absorptive cells are damaged, a salt-sugar mixture in clean water at the correct concentration will allow rapid correction of diarrhoea-induced dehydration in all but the most severe cases.

Most diarrhoea-related deaths could thus be prevented using materials readily available in all but the humblest of homes. It ought to be an international scandal that 20 years after *The Lancet* extolled the immense lifesaving potential of ORT, less than a third of families in the developing world have even heard of it. As part of its Diarrhoeal Disease Control Programme, the World Health Org-

'The earliest reference to rice-water cures is over 3,000 years old'

anisation has distributed millions of tonnes of pre-packaged ORT salts, yet more than one in ten children still dies of diarrhoea before the age of five.

The WHO and Unicef have been criticised for relying on pre-packaged ORT rather than teaching local people to make up the solution from home-based ingredients. Professor David Morley, Emeritus Professor of Tropical Child Health at the Institute of Child Health in London, describes their approach as "ridiculous". He says: "No developing country could afford to buy enough pre-packaged ORT for the needs of its population without bankrupting its health service. It's not the ingredients that are expensive, but the packaging." In the early 1960s, Professor Morley went to work in a Nigerian village where 373 of every 1,000 babies died before their first birthday. Over the next five years, he



Dehydration is a common killer, not only in Rwandan refugee camps but throughout the developing world — but a British doctor has devised a simple spoon as a weapon

reduced this mortality rate by more than 80 per cent through policies such as promotion of breast feeding, regular weighing of healthy children and ORT treatment for diarrhoea.

On his return, he founded the UK-based charity TALC (Teaching Aids at Low Cost), which specialises in appropriate, low-technology medical aids and teaching materials for the developing world. TALC has made and distributed several million double-sided measuring spoons for the preparation of ORT from home-available ingredients: 5,000 were dispatched to the Rwandan refugee camps last week alone. Each spoon costs around 3p to produce, whereas pre-packaged ORT varies in price from 2p to 35p per sachet (at least six would be needed per episode).

Supplying ORT sachets or measuring spoons does not guarantee that they will be used. A recent study showed that even when readily available, ORT was used in fewer than 20 per cent of diarrhoea episodes. One problem with glucose-based ORT solutions is that although they are effective in rehydrating the patient, they do not reduce the frequency, duration or volume of diarrhoea, which, as any parent knows, are the most

distressing aspects of the condition. In contrast, anti-motility drugs, the active ingredient in many over-the-counter remedies, are useless in rehydrating the patient but produce a rapid reduction in stool frequency. Such remedies are just the ticket if you are a long-

haul hitch-hiker, but their promotion as safe and effective cures for infant diarrhoea in the Third World is nothing short of immoral.

A new form of ORT, made with powdered rice, is at least as effective as glucose-based ORT in correcting dehydration, and it also reduces the

frequency of diarrhoea. The rice is slowly converted to glucose in the gut, so fluid absorption is achieved with far less osmotic load — that is, water has less "pull" from other molecules to keep it in the gut. Because it is an anti-diarrhoeal as well as a rehydrating agent, rice-based ORT generally proves more acceptable to parents who are looking for immediate, visible improvement in their child's condition.

Incidentally, the new maltodextrin-based energy drinks for long-distance athletes are chemically similar to rice-based ORT and were developed for precisely the same reason — glucose-based sports drinks were notorious for causing "jogger's trots".

Rice-based ORT has a number of other advantages. Parents and community health workers have been shown to make frequent errors in mixing up both pre-packaged and home-ingredient ORT. With glucose-based solutions, these errors can worsen diarrhoea and lead to life-threatening concentration of body sodium. But solutions containing anything from 20 to 90 grammes of rice per litre of water with salt added to taste (see recipe) have been shown to be both safe and effective. Further-

more, the nutritional energy provided by starch-based ORT (made from rice, wheat, maize, millet, potato or plantain) plays an important role in preventing or reversing malnutrition in debilitated children.

The earliest known reference to rice-water cures for diarrhoea comes from a book of Indian herbal remedies more than 3,000 years old. This time-honoured recipe may soon be revised in the light of the latest research. There is preliminary evidence that amino-acids such as alanine may further improve fluid and salt absorption (via a separate sodium amino-acid co-transporter system), and that certain man-made carbohydrates can actually repair the damage to the fluid absorption cells. For cholera-type diarrhoeas, drugs which block the secretion of fluid into the damaged gut have already been developed, but severe side-effects preclude their use in practice.

Diarrhoeal disease is not entirely a Third-World problem. Vulnerable groups in Britain include watersports enthusiasts, returning foreign tourists, the very elderly (particularly in nursing homes), and patients with Aids.

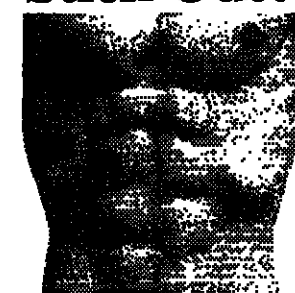
The rice-water cure, which

began, quite literally, as an ancient Third-World solution, would appear to hold considerable promise for alleviating some of the ill-effects of our Western lifestyle.

● TALC (Teaching Aids at Low Cost) can be contacted at PO Box 49, St Albans, Herts, AL1 4AX. Please enclose SAE if requesting a catalogue. The measuring spoons retail at 10p each with considerable discount for bulk orders.

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DR KIERAN SWEENEY
● The author is a GP in Exeter.

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Thinking positive can be the key to symptom relief

Why do we get more colds and flu when miserable or run-down?

tients will respond to placebo treatments? About one-third of all patients show a placebo response, but the characteristics of those who do are so

gestibility, or intelligence are related to the response to placebo treatment. In general, the more severe a symptom is, especially pain, the more pronounced is the response to placebo.

Neurotic patients fare worst

Also, patients who are well motivated to get better tend to show a better response. A patient's expectations of the effectiveness of a treatment clearly has an influence on their response, whether the treatment is active or placebo. This suggests that the placebo response can be conditioned. For example, when patients with a painful joint use a pain-

relieving cream, similar pain reduction will be achieved later by a placebo cream, if the patient expects the same response. The opposite is also true. Where the patient receives medication which is active but unsuccessful a placebo "sag" occurs, and no amount of persuasion will produce a beneficial response to placebo.

The extent to which the placebo effect can be made to work in general practice is the subject of research in one general practice in Devon, and it has the support of the Department of Health. The practice employs a healer to interview and "heal" those patients who have not been helped by conventional medical treatment. The early findings from the project show that the healer is achieving a success rate at least equal to those obtained by doctors

carrying out conventional scientific experiments — that is about a 30 per cent improvement in symptoms. The healer aims to encourage a more positive attitude to the illness within the patient.

Scientists are beginning to unravel the body chemistry associated with such positive attitudes: the level of natural killer cells, a type of white blood cell which fights infection, increases when the patient develops a positive attitude. The opposite also seems to be true. Natural killer-cell levels tend to be low when patients are run down.

We all know that when we get run down or feel miserable, we seem to be more prone to coughs, colds or flu. Now we are beginning to understand why.

All doctors know about the placebo effect and most dismiss it as worthless. The effect of placebos — that is, treatments used for their non-specific psychological effects — has been recognised for over 40 years, yet they have remained an underdeveloped tool.

Most commonly, placebo treatment takes the form of an inactive tablet, but even surgical operations have been shown to produce a placebo effect. About 20 years ago, some patients with angina were offered an operation in which one of the arteries in the chest was tied off. The operation was found to produce a 60 per cent relief of pain but surgeons stopped carrying out the procedure when a placebo operation, in which an incision was made in the same part of the chest, was found to produce the

same amount of pain relief. The placebo effect can produce substantial and prolonged benefits in many diseases. Blood pressure can be lowered on placebo tablets and the symptoms of migraine, fainting, heart failure and angina can all be improved over long periods.

Patients with stomach ulcers, who in a recent trial received placebo instead of tagamet, a drug which has specific ulcer-healing properties, recorded a 45 per cent improvement in symptoms, compared with a 65 per cent improvement in the group who received tagamet. The surprising thing about this study was that the symptomatic improvement was confirmed in both groups by doctors performing endoscopy and looking at the ulcers after six weeks of treatment.

Can we predict which pa-

Paul Johnson on the indignity of royalty truckling to the papers

Those who reign by the press die by it

What a sinister, slithery, serpentine and treacherous instrument the telephone is! So convenient, so tempting and so calamitous when used unwisely. So seemingly private and cosy, for long unguarded chats, and yet so public when the hidden spoils of the media are used. It is the epitome of the two-edged technological sword which stands sentinel over our lives. It could well be that the epitaph on the House of Windsor will read: "Committed suicide by telephone". First the "tampon" tape, then the "Squidgy" tape, and now the mysterious calls traced to Kensington Palace. It is a sorrowful irony, the damage compounded by the fact that the latest episode has led the Princess of Wales to talk openly to the media.

Of course she did not start this fatal descent into public confession. Hitherto her self-disclosures, imprudent though they undoubtedly were, have been indirect. It was the Prince of Wales, in his agonised, interminable expostulations to Jonathan Dimbleby, who chose to open a new skirmish in his epic battle with his wife by putting his words on the record. He will learn to rue that furtive and incomplete admission of adultery for the rest of his life, and the documentary will prove an important milestone on his road to ruin. In turn it has encouraged his wife to resort to the media openly, and so compound her many earlier errors.

Talking to the press is among the greatest challenges any public man or woman can face. It demands not just experience and quick-thinking, but a kind of genius.

Very few even of the greatest politicians have been able to pull it off throughout their years of celebrity, and then usually by using a particular trusted agent. Thus Lord Palmerston never had cause to regret his confidences to John Thaddeus Deane of *The Times*, and Lloyd George, from start to finish, had a relationship of trust with C.P. Scott of *The Guardian*. Then again, both F.D. Roosevelt and Ronald Reagan manipulated the media throughout their terms of office, chiefly by diabolical use of the giving and withholding powers at their disposal. But most prime ministers and presidents have come to regard the press with bitterness or even hatred. Their experience is summed up by Thomas Jefferson. He began his career by defying the press: "Were it left for me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer [newspapers]." He ended it in the light of sad experience, including press disclosures of his affairs with slave-women, by snarling: "A man who never looks into a newspaper is better informed than he who reads them; inasmuch as he who knows nothing is nearer to truth than he whose mind is filled with falsehoods and errors."

Those who begin by exploiting the press — and mighty tempting it is when one is on the dazzling threshold of fame — almost always end by being exploited in turn. For the media is an all-devouring monster. Its appetite is insatiable, but it demands constant change of diet. It creates public personalities and then, like a spoilt child, tires of them and dashes them to pieces. In the daily soap opera which the papers manufacture from the news, the plot has to move on all the time. Journalists delight in detecting a new star, turning him or her into

a triumphant conqueror, then abruptly spinning the wheel of fortune to reveal a fallen idol, a victim. Thus Harold Macmillan was transformed into Supermac before being degraded into an accident-prone old clown. Harold Wilson enjoyed a similar switchback ride with the media, up one month, down the next, before the press judged the public was sick of his miraculous escapes. Wilson was shrewd enough to take the hint and leave the stage. Most media celebrities try to cling on, and the press stamps on their fingers. I suspect that John Major, once briefly a media favourite, has a truly awesome fate awaiting him, and Tony Blair should make the most of his novelty while it lasts.

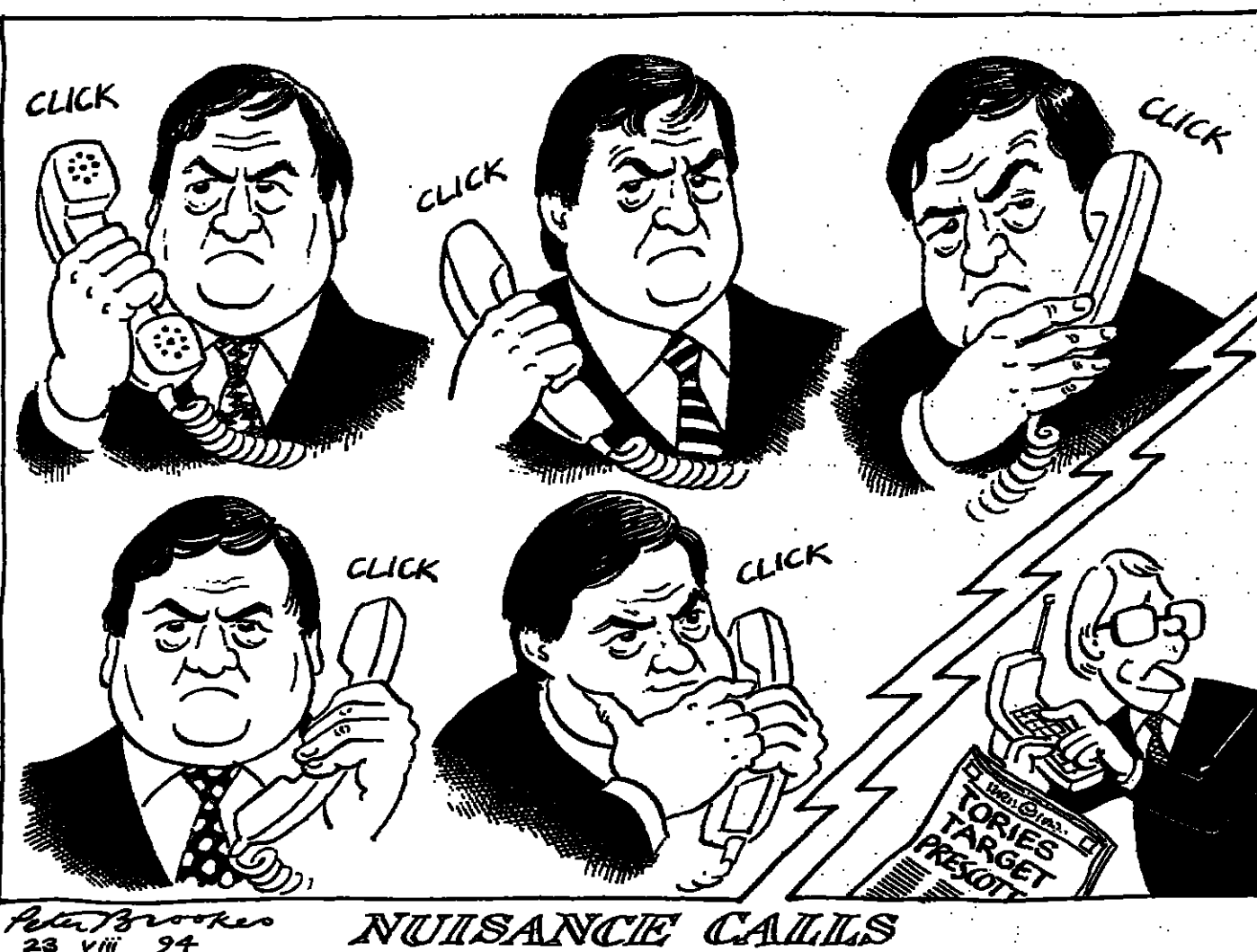
The press has taken full advantage of the meretricious freedom brought by the ending of any respect for authority. To journalists, politics and royalty are now merely forms of showbusiness, to be covered with as much razzamatazz and cruelty as the public will stand. Creating and destroying is the game. The excitement lies precisely in the dramatic transformations. One moment Marilyn Monroe was the sex-goddess of the universe, the next a lonely corpse in the morgue. No movie star owed more to skilful manipulation of the press than Brigitte Bardot; her latest biographer reveals that in the past 15 years alone she has brought 150 legal actions fighting off her one-time allies, now turned piranha-fish.

Politicians and actresses need the media. Royalty does not. It has no obligation to win elections or chalk up smash-hits. It need not gamble on a sensational performance. Royalty is for life. It ought to see itself as part of the scenery, or like the weather, always there. It can afford the taciturnity of a natural phenomenon, exhibiting itself only on ceremonial occasions. It should stick to dumb-show or to cherished ritual speech: "My husband and I". Then the media has no alternative but to portray royals at their own valuation, like Trooping the Colour.

But the colour is trooped under strict discipline. The trouble with the younger royals is that they have rejected the disciplined routine within which they were safe. They have put inclination before duty, the satisfaction of the moment before the long haul. They have talked, breaking the golden rule of silence which has kept the monarchy secure and out of reach for more than a century. They have chosen to join the politicians and actresses in using the press, forgetting it must be a two-way deal. And of course they are amateurs up against professionals. So now the Prince of Wales and his Princess are just like any other politician on the skirts of a falling star looking for a role, reduced to reaching for that fatal telephone and dialling a "friendly" journalist, hoping for a lift, a plug, a helpful headline. It is a terrible fate for the Lord's anointed, and it can only get worse and more humiliating.

I do not know what actual power the Queen retains over her eldest son and his wife. But if she has any it should be exerted at once to stop them talking to the press. The only hope for them is for a great silence to descend on their affairs, during which damage can be repaired. Otherwise both will quickly degenerate into what they seemed destined to become — mere members of the chattering classes.

The Queen must ban them from speaking to the press



Alan Brooke
23 VII 94

NUISANCE CALLS

Building on élitism

The arts need not rely on the public purse. The new Glyndebourne is a triumph of private initiative

Yes, yes, I know that everybody who can whistle "The Whistler and his dog" has already said everything there is to be said on the subject of the new Glyndebourne. Well, I am certainly not everybody, much less anybody, and whistler or no whistler I am going to have my say, so there.

So you remember (no, of course you don't — only people as old as I am would remember) the building of the Royal Festival Hall on the South Bank? I was young then; youth fades fast, but all through those four decades I have kept that memory green: the memory, that is, of the great, glorious, glittering shock that the Royal Festival Hall gave — and, in the corridors of my mind, still gives.

Then I went to Glyndebourne, and got that shock again.

I have now been going to Glyndebourne since 1951; this year I went to a most splendid *Eugene Onegin*, and a somewhat less splendid *Don Giovanni* on my birthday. This was spelt only by the realisation that I have had an appalling number of birthdays already. (True, George Christie had the impudence, when we were talking after the performance, to opine that he was some years older than I — a claim so painful, mendacious and uncalculated for that I pushed him into the lake and did not stop to inquire whether he had drowned.)

Essegi monumentum aere perennius. Some time ago, when the new one was a building, I found myself with some friends at a garden party. Leaving, we realised that we were very near Glyndebourne, where the old and new were fighting it out, and we stopped there for a time. Fierce noises issued from a tiny, naturally, we ignored them and tipped into the tremendous mess. Soon, the guardians of the site got wind of us and, before they had time to set the dogs on us — we beat a retreat. But not before we had glimpsed another world.

I bet you didn't know that 1,700,000 bricks were needed for the new building. I also bet you didn't know that if the cubic space allowed to each member of the audience in the old Glyndebourne opera house — which held some 800 — had been followed into the new one, the numbers of the audience could be exactly double the old. No, said the Christies: there shall be leg-room, and breathing-room, and shifting-on-the-bottom-room, and lot the Christies

contented themselves with 1,200 comfortably seated.

Enough of this jabbering with compasses, rulers and even sextants: I walked into the new opera house and I was stunned by its beauty. Now before you say that I am getting sentimental, let me say something about beauty in opera houses. I consider myself a considerable expert in the subject, having spent a great deal of my life visiting even the ones in the most remote places. Basically, there are two kinds of beautiful opera house interior: the ornate, however lavish or delicate, and the geometrical, however severe or magical. And I swear by Pythagoras and Archimedes.

The sheer warmth of the wonderfully chosen timbers (I dare not remember how many trees had to be felled, lest the Save the Whales organisation comes and eats us all) is perfectly set off by the architectural genius that has set the curves of the balconies so exactly that I thought for a moment the whole building would, at the press of a button, start going round. (Though there is one inexcusable *lacuna*: a number of seats give only a partial view of the stage.)

Not even such a wonderful opera house can build itself: this one, in the building of it, shames our country and who knows how many others? by the way its dozens of problems were met and surmounted while all over the land there were and are excuses for failure. George Christie gets not a penny from the State for this masterpiece (or indeed for the running of Glyndebourne itself), and his proudest claim — as it should be — is that the building was done inside the time allocated and the cost was not a penny over the budget. Just match him against Sir Alastair ("blame

me") Morton, whose celebrated hole in the ground seems, every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, to be demanding more billions of money and more months of time, and giving unimpressive reasons for both.

But here is another man, a man who inherited from his father an opera house, and swore that he would be true to his trust. And he has been, as his new opera house makes clear.

This is an unpropitious time to be building opera houses, but if the Christies had waited for a propitious time we should wait for ever. Anyway, the sun shone (it always does when I am at Glyndebourne, because I long ago struck a bargain with the Lord, by the terms of which I would never take a picnic and He would always provide a clement weather), and wherever I looked I saw happiness, excitement, laughter, satisfaction, wonder and untrammelled praise. The singing and acting in *Eugene Onegin* came as close to perfection as anything can, and Graham Vick's *mise-en-scène* was one of the most enchanting and refreshing things I have ever seen on a stage. (Mind you, I had the shock of my life when, after the performance, I was introduced to the Tatiana, to whose beautiful and meaningful singing I had just been listening, entirely rapt, when I discovered that in years she is hardly more than a child.)

For *Don Giovanni*, I was wondering whether the few bores earlier in the season would be repeated; they weren't. (These had been provoked by Deborah Warner's staging; just another silly woman who thinks she is cleverer than Mozart.) But I must digress for a moment.

Once only in so many decades had there been boating in the old opera-house, but — you won't believe this — it was entirely my fault. Those of my readers who follow my every step will know that

the one work of music I detest, hate, loathe and abhor beyond anything else is *Perfidus et Melisande*, which I swear I would now walk 20 miles on stilts not to hear. Don't think I have not tried; I had heard the dreadful thing no fewer than five times when I struck and would go no more. Even then, all might have been glossed over, had it not been (I have never known where to stop) for my taking it into my head, that day, to write a monumentally savage column describing my feelings about the horror. Far away from Glyndebourne, I little knew what I was unleashing, but that night, when I was happily tucked up in bed with some decent Wagner, the floodgates had been opened: I had, in some touching way, given the *nilhil obstat* for all those who had always detested the thing as much as I had, but *had been afraid to say so, in case they had been thought musical oiks*. My postbag in the next few days reinforced my views; vast numbers agreed — indeed, we were fully ten haters to one who loved it. Anyway, as I subsequently learnt, our side, released from the thrall, let loose at curtain-fall and poured out their years of misery into a glorious riot of catcalls. And that, grandpa Bernard will tell you, was how he introduced boating into the auditorium at Glyndebourne.

As I have repeatedly said, the glory of Glyndebourne is its élitism, may it never wane. I must end, therefore, with the most delightful expression of élitism I have ever seen. I return to *Eugene Onegin*, which was sung in Russian, a language few of the audience could be expected to follow; reasonably enough, they were helped by English surtitles. But when, in the ballroom scene, launches out on his French tutor, launches out on his "Brillix, Brillix" song, the surtitles were firmly switched off. Of course, all of us are fluent in French (I, for one, committed the entire *oeuvre* of Racine to memory last Wednesday and my daily chat on the phone with Gerard Depardieu sometimes goes on for an hour). Dear, beloved Glyndebourne, never blush when you do things like that. Just remember that doing things like that is the reason we love you so much.

P.S. I must warn you that I have been to Bayreuth for the new *Ring*, and I shall shortly be giving you some 27,000 words of opinion on the subject.

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Bernard Levin

King or no?

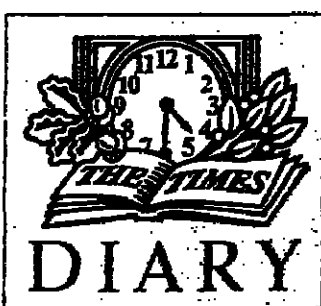
RICHARD KAY, chauffeur and confidant to the Princess of Wales, has yet to decide whether to drive and tell, but one rather more august figure is already well on his way to joining Messrs Dimbleby and Morton in the forthcoming royal publishing war.

The venerable George Austin, who stirred such controversy last year when he questioned the Prince of Wales's fitness to be King, hopes to have his high moral tone *Affairs of State* on the bookshelves by February. Eagerly awaited will be the chapter on "Royal Affairs".

Time, it seems, has not mellowed the views of the Archdeacon of York, particularly when it comes to the Prince's suitability to be a future Supreme Governor of the Church of England. "He actually admitted to adultery on that tedious Dimbleby programme, and if he can't keep his marriage vows how can we expect him to keep the solemn coronation vows?"

Austin concedes, however, that immoral kings do not necessarily make bad kings. "Look at Henry VIII. Excellent king but no morals. But this sort of behaviour must not create a precedent."

Nevertheless, Austin's book



doesn't leave the Prince without hope. "I don't expect him to crawl on his knees through the mud to Westminster Abbey, but this is all about repentance," he urges. "There are still a lot of buts, but if he repented Prince Charles might make quite a good King."

Simple sale

IF AN accountant from Scotland Yard can lord it in the Scottish Highlands, why not a pop star and his blonde actress wife? Jim Kerr, lead singer of Simple Minds, and Patsy Kensit have just bought their second home in the Trossachs, a pretty area once favoured

for loch-side teas by Queen Victoria.

Builders are already at work on Archduchess, the 20-room former hunting lodge with views over Loch Lubnaig near Strathgryne in Perthshire, which they have just bought for a reported £250,000. A few miles up the road, Kerr already owns a red sandstone house overlooking Loch Earn.

Locals are taking the stars' arrival in their stride. "I wouldn't know if Mr Kerr came in the shop or not," says Helen Wighman from her village shop. "I wouldn't recognise him."

● Not quite my normal bag. I admit, but an environmentally-themed coffee-table book. Green Indonesia, crosses my desk. Photographs by one Alain Compost.

Herbivore

ONE of the great publishing successes of recent years was Stephen Hawking's *A Brief History of Time*. Now Quentin Seddon is hoping that his celebration of *Thymus vulgaris* will meet similar acclaim.

A Brief History of Thyme is published next month, and promises to be a ray read, with Seddon shedding fresh light on the plant's aphoristic properties. "It is incredible stuff. Quite the elixir of youth," says

Seddon, pointing out that Prince Charles took personal responsibility for planning the thyme garden at Highgrove. "Trials using essential oil of thyme have worked marvellously on ancient mice. They start skipping around again like nobody's business."

Now you see

MANY of those lucky enough to be at the Oval on Saturday could scarcely believe what they saw as Devon Malcolm singlehandedly destroyed the South Africans. But back in the early 1980s, when he first played for Derbyshire, it



was the fast bowler himself who couldn't believe his eyes.

"He had this strange weaving run as he came up the pitch," says one county ground regular. "The club wasn't quite sure if he could see the other end of the wicket. So they had his eyes tested and he had the prescription for his glasses changed."

The new specs apparently improved Malcolm's performance considerably, until he swapped them a couple of seasons ago in favour of contact lenses. According to his wife, Jenny, he is now much happier. "Contact lenses are much easier because they don't fall out or move around."

Bookends

THE GAVEL comes down on a literary era next month when the contents of the amiable septuagenarian Bernard Stone's atmospheric Turret bookshop are auctioned by Phillips. A genial glutton for wine, women and poetry, Stone made his London shop a celebrated literary meeting place over several decades, attracting an eclectic band including William Burroughs, Allen Ginsberg, Ralph Steadman and Ted Hughes.

Ill health, sadly, has forced the clearance of his Covent Garden shelves, which held books by many

of his friends as well as his own stories for children. "Everyone will miss the shop. It was a sociable place and Bernard is a kind man full of anecdotes, very often against himself," says Fiona Pitt-Kethley, high priestess of lyrical erotica. "A very sociable man, he would always offer you a drink from the selection in his shop."

Dropped hints

IT IS not just A-level candidates who are spending the summer musing on the merits of the A-E grading system. Richard Snailham, honorary foreign secretary to the Royal Geographical Society, has found it a fine way to assess the vintage of elephant dung.

He has been overseeing research into the number of elephants in the Shumbe Hills national park in Kenya. Each dropping discovered is inspected and given a grade, from A for fresh down to E for distinctly ancient. "The number, position and age of the droppings will be fed into a computer and the result will help us to tell how many elephants there are in the park," says Snailham, who is clearly in for a smelly time. "The elephant population is said to be multiplying."

P.H.S.

Fairer taxes for us all

William Goodhart on the Lib Dem plans

Conventional wisdom says that any political party which does not promise to cut taxes is doomed. If this is true, the prospects for real improvement in services such as education, health and public transport are indeed bleak. But the Liberal Democrats — who last week launched a discussion paper on earmarked taxes and this week have another on tax and benefits — wish to challenge this. We believe that if promised improvements are costed and if it is clear how and by whom those costs are to be met, voters will support better services rather than lower taxes.

This week's policy paper discusses the structure of tax and benefits, not the rates. Rates can only be fixed much closer to the election. But a simpler and fairer tax structure — one of the main objectives — will help to increase public understanding of and consent to taxation. Our proposed reforms of the benefit system, in particular the partial-capacity benefit and low-income benefit, will help people to move from benefit-dependency into work.

What do we see as the areas most in need of reform? On the spending side, reform of disability benefits is a high priority. Three elements are needed: a disablement costs allowance to cover the costs of disability; a disablement pension (taxable but not means-tested) to cover the ordinary living costs of those unable to work through sickness or disability; and a new partial-capacity benefit to help people able to do some paid work but not able to support themselves fully. These benefits would replace the present complex but inadequate benefits.

Having separate means-tested benefits for those out of work (Income Support) and for people in low-paid jobs (Family Credit) is confusing and unnecessary. Some people in low-paid casual jobs move from one to the other frequently. And some people are discouraged from taking part-time jobs by a system that withdraws Income Support pound-for-pound against any household earnings above £15 a week. The Liberal Democrats now propose to replace these benefits by a single low-income benefit, which would be "tapered" — that is, withdrawn at a rate less than pound-for-pound against earnings.

It has long been plain that National Insurance contributions are neither "Employees' contributions" nor payable only on earned income of less than £430 a week. Contrary to all the principles of progressive taxation, this means that the marginal rate of tax goes down as income goes up, and higher tax is paid on earned income than on investment income. The Liberal Democrat conference voted last year to scrap the contributory system. This year, details of our proposed replacements are being unveiled. Employers' contributions would be converted into a simple payroll tax. In the long run, income from new environmental taxes would be used to reduce employers' NICs and reduce the cost of labour. Employee contributions would be converted into a pensions payment, earmarked for state pensions.

The present higher rate of tax leaves many people with incomes below £30,000 paying tax at the same 40 per cent marginal rate as those with incomes over £100,000. The Liberal Democrats propose to raise the starting point for higher-rate tax to well over £30,000, and to make it progressive, by having three small steps rather than a single large one. The top rate, taking income tax and the pensions payment together, would be no higher than the 60 per cent rate in force for most of Margaret Thatcher's time as Prime Minister, and would be payable only on income over £100,000.

Tax benefits would also be reformed. The Liberal Democrats would continue the Conservatives' phasing out of mortgage interest relief and the married couples' allowance. However, the position of poor homeowners would be improved by extending housing benefit to cover mortgage interest as well as rent. Couples with children would be protected from the loss of married couples' allowance by a matching increase in child benefit. Relief for contributions to pension schemes would continue, but in order to qualify occupational schemes would have to be open to all employees (not just executives). At the same time, working women with children would be helped by extending the present tax relief for workplace nurseries to cover employer subsidies for off-workplace childcare, and thereafter by introducing tax relief for childcare costs paid by employees themselves.

These proposals are bold and explicit. Some people will be hurt by them. Most people, we believe, will see them as leading to a tax and benefit system which is simpler and much fairer than the present one.

Mr William Goodhart, QC, chairs the party's working group on tax.



CLINTON'S NEW CHANCE

The President must pursue other priorities with equal vigour

The passage of the US Administration's sweeping crime Bill through the House of Representatives is a victory of vital importance to President Clinton. Had the embattled President failed to reverse the defeat he suffered only a week ago on his original Bill, his chance of winning a majority for his healthcare Bill, or even to control the legislative agenda for the remainder of his term, would have been fatally damaged.

Battered by repeated setbacks, scandal and rumour, his political credibility draining from constituencies across the country, he saw the Bill, rightly, as a test of his own authority in Congress and especially within his party. He still has to fight to secure passage through the Senate, but moderate Democrats are now less likely to defy the White House on an issue that is overwhelmingly the main concern of American voters.

The fact that the President was about to lose a Bill of such crucial importance was a measure of his own vulnerability and of the parlous state of the American legislative system, where checks and balances have now degenerated into wrangling and gridlock. Some 64 Democrats still voted against the Bill, mostly Southern conservatives who denounced measures to outlaw 19 types of semi-automatic assault weapons. The gun lobby, in the form of the National Rifle Association, showed that although its stranglehold on gun control legislation is not quite as suffocating as it once was, the emotive issue of the right to bear arms can still blind much of the country to any sensible attempts to limit the availability of guns. These same conservative Democrats were joined by Republicans who objected to social measures intended to prevent crime by tackling the boredom and barrenness of the inner cities. Federal funding of basketball at midnight, along with other spending provisions, was seen as the classic woolly-

minded liberalism too often abused by a wily and desperate underclass.

Mr Clinton, however, has shown again that he is a politician able to learn from his mistakes: and for a man who has made so many, it is lucky that he is a fast learner. He was quick to compromise over the more controversial aspects of his Bill, cutting \$3 billion from the total and incorporating most of the revisions already suggested by the Senate. He appealed to Republicans and women's groups by toughening restrictions on so-called sexual predators. And he took up the weapons of persuasion at the President's disposition, speaking out in public, challenging his opponents to explain their stand and indulging in the old-fashioned arm-twisting that he used to be too squeamish to use.

The Bill should now clear the Senate and pass swiftly into law. The White House is hoping that this will transform the President's standing and the prospects both for his healthcare Bill and for his party in the November congressional and gubernatorial elections. It is true that Americans respect only political success; and congressmen, ever on the lookout for their partisan advantage, fear only the discipline of a President prepared to annihilate his opponents.

But Mr Clinton's hopes may be premature; the healthcare Bill has drawn the opposition of very different groups, and he cannot necessarily assemble the same coalition of support. He must now pursue his remaining priorities with equal vigour and single-mindedness, priorities that must include at least the beginnings of a coherent foreign policy. Only when he is perceived as an incumbent determined to enact his programme will he be an asset rather than a liability to his party. And only then will Democrats seeking a return to office begin to grasp at his coat-tails.

LIBERAL DELUSIONS

The centre party's tax proposals make Labour look moderate

The Liberal Democrats feel just as besieged by Tony Blair as do the Tories. Squeezed from both sides, but particularly by the Left, the centre party fears obliteration. Paddy Ashdown's response is to snatch at any policy that will produce the elusive "distinctiveness" for his party in the eyes of voters. There is, however, no neat correlation between policies that are distinctive and those that are desirable.

Tomorrow the party will publish another paper on taxes and benefits, which will promise a 60 per cent top rate of tax (including National Insurance) to be levied on incomes above £100,000, with intermediate rates between 40 and 60 per cent starting on incomes of "well over" £30,000. This follows a report last week suggesting that more taxes should be earmarked for particular areas of spending: excise duties on cigarettes and alcohol, for instance, could be spent on the health service.

The Liberal Democrats are building on their most distinctive policy at the last general election, the promise to put a penny on income tax to pay for better education. This campaign pledge combined the two elements of their current proposals: hypothecation, or earmarking, and higher rates of tax. But to generalise from this to a redesign of their whole tax policy could prove extremely rash.

First, it is not clear that the education policy was even popular. True, it was the area in which the Liberal Democrats scored highest in the opinion polls. But that may be because it was the only party policy that voters could remember. And when it came to the polling booths, the centre party won its lowest level of support since 1979.

But even if voters were prepared to pay a penny in the pound more for better education, it does not follow that they will be prepared to pay 20p more in top rates. And

as the last election showed, higher taxes for the rich are as unpopular with the aspirant rich as with the wealthy themselves. However much Labour protested that its shadow Budget would make 80 per cent of the electorate better off, a large proportion of voters envisaged themselves moving in the future from the majority to the minority.

The earmarking proposal may seem to have more electoral potential. But it is hugely impractical: the perfect policy, in fact, for a party that has no prospect of power. One of the main tasks of politicians is to take decisions on tax and spending priorities. To leave such decisions to the whims of tobacco and alcohol consumers is a negation of that responsibility.

And the more taxes are hypothecated towards spending in popular areas, such as health, the more unpopular the residual income tax becomes. Then there is the problem of those who want to opt out: people with no children might start to question why they should finance others' education, and pacifists might try to withhold tax that will go towards defence spending.

Mr Ashdown's bigger problem is that by the next election, if Tony Blair lives up to his promise, the Liberal Democrats will have hardly any core supporters left. That is not to say that they will have no votes. Many people, particularly in the South, will vote tactically for the centre party; not because of its "distinctive" policies, but because it seems the most likely party to oust a sitting Conservative.

But if, at the next election, the Liberal Democrats are perceived as the high-tax party, all they will succeed in doing is to make Labour look respectable and moderate. For the Liberal Democrats to become Labour's new Militant Tendency does seem a somewhat quixotic strategy to adopt in the face of a centre party squeeze.

HAIL COLUMBA

The saint's chapel emerges from the Hebridean earth

The discovery of the lost chapel of St Columba on the Hebridean island of Canna is one of the most striking archaeological finds of recent years. The precise location of the stone structure, which may be 1,400 years old, was lost at some stage during the 19th century. Its rediscovery by a team from Bradford University is a remarkable scientific achievement. It also stirs emotions as ancient as the Christian faith in these isles.

St Columba is one of a handful of figures in the collective memory of this nation who embody both history and legend. Born in Co Donegal in 521, he was a holy man of royal stock utterly committed to the propagation of the faith. In 563, he and a group of followers sailed across the sea to Iona, west of the Ross of Mull, to found a community which would transform Western Christianity. His biographer Adamnan wrote of him that "he had the face of an angel; he was of an excellent nature, polished in speech, holy in deed, great in counsel... loving unto all". It is a sense that some of this awesome sanctity has been retrieved from the soil which makes the new find so inspiring.

St Columba embodies two important paradoxes of his era. The period in which he lived has come to be known as the Dark Ages. Yet the community which he built on Iona was rich in learning, scholarly sophistication and missionary zeal. It was a vital focus of a Celtic European civilisation which

at its height spread from the Hebrides to Brittany to Spain. Before his death in 597, St Columba predicted that "great homage" would be paid to the "small and mean" island where he and his companions had settled three decades before. This prophecy reflected not only Iona's importance to the conversion of the Scots, Picts and Northern English; it also anticipated the fundamental role that Celtic monasticism would play in the development of Western Christianity.

Secondly, Columba's life epitomised the tension in early Christianity between reclusiveness and evangelical fervour. Few men in the history of the Church have done more for the spread of the Christian message. But the islands where he lived and through which he wandered could scarcely be more remote. The monastic culture he founded was the product of contradictory emotions: recoil from the barbarity of his times and a missionary desire to improve them.

To encounter this world in the form of long-forgotten stone is to glimpse an era when the triumph of the Western Church was far from assured. Like the later Sutton Hoo burial site and the epic poem *Beowulf*, the chapel of Columba recalls a time when a fledgling nation stood poised between a pagan past and a Christian future. Its foundations — across which the saint crept more than a millennium ago — are the bedrock of the civilisation in which we now live.

Criticism of police caution on silence

From Ms Lindsay Cooke

Sir, Lay visitors to police stations, of whom I was one from 1988 until earlier this year, only see the beginning of the criminal justice process, and I am therefore not qualified to judge whether the new police caution (report, August 19) will lead to more wrongful convictions.

What I do feel qualified to say is that the effective abolition of the right to silence which it contains will do nothing to increase the average detainee's understanding of, or confidence in, the detention process, nor will it enhance his or her ability to understand and be able to exercise their rights.

My own five years of, on average, fortnightly visits — all unannounced and together with a colleague — taught me many things. First, that in the vast majority of cases, police officers do a difficult job extremely well. I have witnessed individual officers behave with a sensitivity that goes well beyond the call of duty. Secondly, that the "professional criminal" constitutes a very small minority of detainees. Only once in five years did I hear the phrase "they got me bang to rights".

The vast majority of detainees are ordinary people who find themselves in police custody through a particular circumstance. Many will leave custody without charge and without caution. Many of those brought to trial will be acquitted. And the majority of these ordinary people are to a greater or lesser extent traumatised by the experience of custody.

Complaints about treatment during detention were rare, in my experience. Many visits were simply spent explaining procedures which, according to custody records, had already been explained by police officers. Detainees simply did not understand the rights available to them.

I hope lay visiting panels will consider a response to the new caution, either individually or collectively. The Home Office has asked for submissions on the already revised codes of practice on police and criminal evidence by November 18, in anticipation of the enactment of the Criminal Justice Bill and with a view to their implementation by March 1, 1995.

Yours faithfully,
LINDSAY COOKE
(Chair, Hounslow panel of lay visitors to police stations, 1991 to 1993),
42 Church Street,
Isleworth, Middlesex,
August 19.

From Mr John Hardy

Sir, Speaking of those defendants who exercise their right of silence when questioned by police, the Home Secretary says, you report: "if they do refuse [to answer questions] that is something that will no longer be kept from the jury."

This implies that at present the defendant's exercise of his or her rights is somehow covertly concealed from the jury, for fear they might otherwise draw the wrong conclusion.

The reality is quite the contrary. If the jury is not told of the defendant's exercise of the right, that is usually because the defendant's silence makes the case for or against him no further. Much more often, though, the jury is told, and is also told not to draw any adverse inference from the defendant's silence.

If the Home Secretary's comment is taken as a measure of his understanding of the workings of the criminal justice system then it is little wonder that he and his recent predecessors have introduced so much ill-conceived and poorly drafted legislation.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN HARDY,
1 Hare Court, Temple, EC4.

From Mr Nigel Lea-Jones

Sir, Although the intention of the proposed new arrest caution may be worthy, its appearance is of trying to ensure convictions, rather than fairness.

Ignorance may be no excuse in law, but any ensuing confusion will hardly foster co-operation in the legal process, or respect for the police and courts — surely, the prime objective.

Speaking as a layman, I cannot see how justice will be diminished through the knowledge by a court or jury of a suspect's initial silence, prior to the availability of legal counsel.

If this is also, basically, the Home Secretary's opinion, as he suggests, then I believe that purpose can be served in a mere 20 words, as follows: "You do not have to say anything, but your silence or what you do say can be considered as evidence."

Yours sincerely,
NIGEL LEA-JONES,
48 Elm Park Mansions,
Park Walk, SW10.

First past the post?

From Mr Robert H. Macrory

Sir, Now there's a surprise. Following your report (August 12) on the well documented excessive remuneration awarded to senior executives in recently privatised companies we read on the same day in your Business News section that the chairman of the Post Office has made a "plea to privatise the post quickly".

So would I in his shoes!

Yours faithfully,
R. H. MACRORY,
Heritage Field, Burton Dassett,
Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Measures to safeguard the future of our cathedrals

From Mr Martin Caroe

Sir, As a member of a firm of architects which over the last 100 years has worked on at least 11 English and Welsh cathedrals, may I comment on your series, "Cathedrals in crisis" (August 15-17).

Cathedral structures are probably in better order than at any time since the Reformation. Technical standards of care have increased over the last 20 to 25 years and generally compare excellently with work carried out by the National Trust, the Royal Palaces Agency and English Heritage.

There has been a rise in standards and in volume of work completed because of the provision of some £19 million of taxpayers' money under a scheme admirably run by English Heritage. Technical research programmes recently launched by English Heritage will lead to a further rise in standards of care.

Deans, provosts and their chapters have agreed provisions for public accountability, independent control over works and the introduction of new standards of archaeological analysis, which are often far higher than those in the secular field.

With 43 individual buildings it is inevitable that some difficulties should exist and that standards should differ. The appointment of the Archbishops' commission to study the governance of cathedrals, and in particular their relationship with the State and the wider Church, must be welcomed. Its findings will carry great weight.

In 1976 Bertrand Monnet, architect of Strasbourg Cathedral and later of Les Invalides, was asked to give a second opinion on proposals for the conservation of the west front of the cathedral at Wells.

After touring the building he told my father that he had never seen a cathedral better cared for. On being told that the chapter had received not a penny of aid from the State, he was all but speechless.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN CAROE,
Caroe & Partners (architects),
1 Greenland Place, NW1,
August 19.

Abducted children

From Baroness Chalker of Wallasey,
Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Sir, I have every sympathy with Denise Sullivan, whose three children were abducted by her estranged husband (report, August 18), and hope that the group of British mothers who flew to Libya will draw much comfort from seeing their children again. But I was dismayed by her reported criticism of the Government. We are deeply concerned about the problem. We do everything in our power to help parents retrieve their abducted children.

But that power is limited by international law and by national legislation in the countries concerned. Unless a country has signed one of the child abduction conventions — Libya has not and we would encourage it to do so — there is no mechanism for seeking the return of a child. It

From the Very Reverend J. P. Burbridge, Dean of Norwich

Sir, Your leading article (August 15) contained a sweeping critique of the management of English cathedrals and tallied precisely with my 30 years' experience of development in three different cathedrals — York, Ripon and now Norwich.

Just as no one would seriously regard the Thirty Nine Articles as presenting an accurate picture of today's Church, so cathedral statutes hardly reflect the realities of cathedral life. Management rests almost entirely in the hands of specialist experts.

For instance, the Norwich statutes make no mention of a cathedral administrator, yet we have a lawyer who admirably fulfils that function. In respect of finances, the administrator and the accounts manager regularly rely upon the advice of accountants, financial experts and investment brokers, closely scrutinised by the Church Commissioners' financiers.

The cathedral and close buildings are in the care of skilled conservators whose activities are minutely examined by a number of expert bodies elsewhere. The close is managed by a leading firm of estate managers on behalf of the dean and chapter. The shop board consists almost entirely of lay people under the chairmanship of a local accountant.

Had the leader suggested that statutes could do with rewriting it would have been a great deal nearer the mark, and would certainly have had the wholehearted agreement of all deans, and chapters already limited by greater external constraints than ever before.

I fully expect that when the report of the Archbishops' commission, requested by the deans and provosts, appears this autumn it will be based more firmly on fact than the somewhat dated presuppositions of your leader.

Yours truly,
J. PAUL BURBRIDGE,
Norwich Cathedral,
The Deanery,
The Close, Norwich,
August 18.

becomes a tug of war between the parents.

Where we can, we do help in a number of practical ways: we can help establish the whereabouts of abducted children, arrange welfare reports and meetings, bring British court orders to the attention of foreign courts, press for prompt court hearings and give practical help to visiting parents overseas. We co-operate closely with and help fund the national council for abducted children, Reunite.

Our policy is to press other countries to sign up to the conventions, to advise the parent on the best course for them, and to take action bilaterally when possible. But ultimately success depends upon the willingness of the other parent to co-operate. Unless there is a legal framework governments cannot force that co-operation.

Yours truly,
CHALKER OF WALLASEY,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office,
King Charles Street, SW1.

Medals for bravery

From Mr Christopher Holmes

Sir, Further to your obituary on August 10 of Lieutenant-Commander Leon Goldsworthy, GC, DSC, GM, the awards second to the Victoria Cross are the DSO, when awarded for personal courage, and the CGM. The George Cross is equal, and not subordinate to the VC; hence the joint Victoria Cross and George Cross association.

Bravery awards are currently codified into two lists, each of four grades. The awards for bravery on the battlefield are the VC, the DSO, the DSC/MC/DFC, and mention in dispatches (a palm rather than a separate medal). The different awards for other ranks for grades two and three have rightly been abolished as anachronistic, and the MC has already been won by a corporal.

The GC heads the list for bravery off the battlefield with the George Medal, the Queen's Gallantry Medal, and now the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct forming the balance. The category is equally applicable to the civilian and soldier, in peace and in war, but recent awards have been mostly military.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER HOLMES,
163 Munster Road, SW6,
August 10.

London hospital cuts

From Dr Hugh Saxton

Sir, Mr Woodward (letter, August 16) has every right to be worried about the future provision of accident and emergency services to the City. It is likely that the closure of Bart's will be followed very quickly by the closure of the A&E department of Guy's so that, within a period of only four years, the City will lose access to both the major A&E departments that can be reached by routes which lie almost entirely within its environs.

Yours faithfully,
H. M. SAXTON
(Campaign Co-ordinator),
Save Guy's Hospital Campaign,
103 Borough High Street, SE1,
August 16.

From Mr Tom Sutcliffe

Sir, Surely the equivalent today of the compulsory tithing which helped to build cathedrals would be the "church tax" which in northern Europe pays for various religious institutions or an alternative high moral object.

Cathedrals have in the past often been free because they are not there just for tourists, but for everybody, whatever their means. They are a telling element in our cultural and religious inheritance, and they are still functional in their original sense, though less used for rendezvous than in medieval times. Mostly they now have pastoral responsibilities far greater than when they were built, for they act as parish churches in localities which would have had their own parish buildings.

The consequence of making cathedrals something to which people relate only after payment would be to destroy their evangelistic potential and their national status. To force visitors to pay a point-of-use price for enjoying these monuments — and perhaps discovering the unexpected in them — would further impoverish a society that daily grows more philistine and gluttonous.

Yours faithfully,
TOM SUTCLIFFE
(Lay member, Southwark diocese,
General Synod),
12 Polworth Road, SW16.

From the Reverend Canon Douglas Vicary

Sir, The Times is to be congratulated on the three features devoted to the future of our cathedrals. The sympathy with their spiritual aims and financial problems was most welcome. There is, however, a nagging anxiety. We have witnessed the erosion of idealism in the National Health Service by the invasion of managers and accountants. In the solving of their problem, can the cathedrals be immune from the same fate?

Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS VICARY,
Pilgrims' Cottage,
8 Tor Street, Wells, Somerset.

Rail strike issues

From Mr Francis Keohane

Sir, Janet Daley (August 19), writing on the rail strike, says it is absurd for employees to get compensation in the move from cash wage payments to cashless pay. Yet it is not uncommon in industry for such compensation to be made and rightly so.

Cashless pay is an efficiency saving for an employer but can be an additional cost to the employee. For people on low and indeed not so low incomes having a bank account is an additional cost, unless it is in regular hefty surplus — unlikely for many rail workers and others.

The RMT does not need a strike to show that rail privatisation is a nonsense. It is apparent to most people, irrespective of their political views. And, of course, Janet Daley's question about where Labour stands is an old political chestnut, pulled out every time the Government's position is indefensible.

Yours sincerely,
FRANCIS KEOHANE,
51 Park Road,
Brentwood, Essex,
August 19.

Business letters, page 25

Name to remember

From the Reverend W. D. Saunders

Sir, Your report (August 9) on Lady Helen Taylor and Timothy Taylor's son, Columbus (letter, August 16) cites the Latin, *columba*, which means a pigeon or dove, as a possible clue to the significance of the choice of name.

St Columba, or Columbus, you state, died in AD 597 and this date and the reference to a dove have interesting historical connections.

Pope St Gregory the Great, the Apostle of the English, is depicted with a dove (the Christian symbol of the Holy Spirit), speaking directly into his ear. St Gregory wrote to the King and Queen of Kent informing them that he was sending St Augustine to England. He arrived at Ebsfleet in Kent in AD 597.

In three years' time, 1997, Canterbury will host the celebrations for the fourteenth centenary of the arrival of St Augustine on these shores. A Columbus with Kent connections would be most appropriate for such an occasion.

Yours sincerely,
W. D. SAUNDERS,
St Anselm's Presbytery,
89 West Hill, Dartford, Kent,
August 10.

Dodgy answers

From the Reverend E. A. Garrett

Sir, I suggest that when those being interviewed on television or radio meet hostile or unnecessary questions, as did Mr Timothy Clifford (report, "Apologies persuade Getty to give Elm", August 19), they say, simply: "Pass."

Yours faithfully,
E. A. GARRETT,
14 Crosbie Close,
Chichester, West Sussex,
August 19.

Tuesday, August 23, 1994. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office.

Level of bad debt points to over-expansion

By ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE size of bad debts owed to British companies reached a record high in the second quarter, raising fears that some firms are getting into trouble through expanding too fast.

Although business activity overall maintained a healthy expansion, some firms appear to have increasing difficulty in recovering money from long-standing debtors.

According to Trade Indemnity, the credit insurer, the average value of payments overdue by more than 30 days reached £153,000, up 5 per cent on the previous quarter.

William Simpson, chief economist at Trade

Indemnity, said the rising trend of long-overdue debt could indicate over-trading, and a failure of some companies to keep credit under control as activity levels rise. The worst-affected sector was steel stockholding, where the average level of long-overdue debt was £245,700.

According to Trade Indemnity, long-overdue debts at smaller companies, now amount to 8.3 per cent of annual sales, compared with 3.8 per cent a year ago. However, the average level of late-payment, at 22 days, remains unchanged from the first quarter.

There has been no change in the average payment delay of 22 days, while small firms generally have cut the average overdue debt

period from 28 days in the first quarter to 23 days in the latest three months.

That positive trend coincides with further evidence from Trade Indemnity's financial trends survey, showing higher activity in 17 out of 18 industrial sectors examined. Only timber and furniture companies fared worse in the second quarter than in the first. Inflationary pressures also remained weak, with a similar proportion of firms reporting price discounting.

The proportion of firms operating at 75 per cent or more of optimum capacity increased to 41 per cent, up 2 per cent on the first quarter. Seven per cent of firms said they were "overstretched." Overall, 52 per cent of firms reported increased activity in the second

quarter, against 41 per cent during the first three months of the year.

Many firms complain that they face increases in raw materials prices and a shortage of skilled labour. In the worst-hit sector, construction, 29 per cent of firms said profits had been hit by rising materials prices and one in four reported rising employee costs.

Companies say they are being better treated by their export customers. The average value of overseas export debt fell for the second quarter in a row, from £75,000 to £67,460. The proportion of exporters being paid on time has risen from 11 per cent to 13 per cent. Overall, 92 per cent of exporters say they are now paid within 30 days of the due date.

Dieter leaves legacy of profit on retirement

By COLIN NARBROUGH, WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT

WERNER Dieter, the former management board chairman of Mannesmann, the German industrial conglomerate, restored the company to profit before he retired last month under a cloud of scandal.

In a first-half report published yesterday, Mannesmann, based in the Rhineland city of Düsseldorf, said that it made a profit in the second quarter and would also show a full-year profit. Last year, it made a group net loss of DM513 million.

The second-quarter profit narrowed the net loss to DM27 million in the first half, from DM467 million at the same stage last year.

The improvement in the first half reflected a 10 per cent rise in sales to DM14.2 billion. Orders rose 19 per cent to almost DM17 billion.

The public prosecutor is investigating allegations that Herr Dieter channelled large component orders over a period of years to companies controlled by his family. The scandal prevented him from being appointed chairman of the Mannesmann supervisory board. An internal company inquiry found no wrongdoing.

Herr Dieter also postponed plans to take up a directorship this month at TI, the British industrial group in which Mannesmann has for some years held an 8.03 per cent stake.

Joachim Funk, the new Mannesmann management board chairman, said in a letter to shareholders that earnings had improved considerably, which he attributed

to the better economic environment and internal restructuring.

Mannesmann, which last week said it was searching for partners for its telecommunications arm, said Mobilfunk, the mobile phone company in which it holds 51 per cent, made its first profit in the first half this year.

Last week, Mannesmann and Mercury, a subsidiary of Britain's Cable and Wireless, secured a court injunction to stop the German government awarding a new inflight mobile telephone licence to Deutsche Telekom, the state monopoly.

Europe, Mannesmann's telecommunications arm, has bought into companies in Spain, France and Italy. Its holdings now include 5 per cent of Servicio de Radiotelefonía Móvil, the Spanish company; 10 per cent of Société Française de Transmission de Données Par Radio; and 15 per cent of Pronto Italia. The group reported generally weak sales in January and February, followed by growth in several divisions. Telecommunications and automotive technology moved back onto profit in the first half and tubes and pipes broke even.

Electronics, however, remained distinctly in the red, as did the engineering and plant division.

Herr Funk said that to maintain competitiveness, Mannesmann would in future direct its efforts towards cutting costs and "rapid expansion of our production facilities abroad."



Mario Conde, the ousted chairman of Banesto, which is said to be returning to profit

Banesto chief says revival is coming

BANCO Español de Crédito (Banesto), whose financial disaster set off Spain's biggest banking crisis, has secured shareholder approval of its 1993 accounts, which should put its troubles firmly behind it (Colin Narbrough writes).

Alfredo Saenz, appointed chairman of Banesto after Mario Conde, the country's banking maverick, from the chairmanship on December 28, told a special general meeting in Madrid yesterday that approval of the accounts meant the end of a phase and the "start of a new one."

He foresaw a relatively quick return to profitability now that the second stage of a 605 billion peseta (£3 billion) rescue plan had been implemented. The bank's financial position had changed dramatically, he said. After a first-half loss of 21.9 billion pesetas this year, and a full-year loss of 578 billion in 1993, he promised a "clearly positive" trend in the second half of this year.

Before the meeting, it had been feared that Señor Conde, still a shareholder, might challenge the accounts. Although under investigation by the central bank on suspicion of malpractice over last year's 180 billion capital increase, he has disputed the central bank's estimate that he had left Banesto with a 284 billion peseta hole in its bad debt provisions, the main reason the central bank ousted him.

Señor Saenz said that Banesto, taken over by its former rivals, "Santander" and "Caja de Pensiones," had achieved savings of 3 billion pesetas in the past three months and had 800 staff devoted to recovering bad debt. Deposits were rising.

The meeting was held because shareholders must approve changes to a commercial bank's board by Spain's central bank. Señor Saenz, initially acting chairman, will now stay on as chairman.

Vickers in talks over future Rolls models

VICKERS, the UK engineering company, has had talks with BMW and Mercedes-Benz of Germany over the possibility of co-operation on future models of its Rolls-Royce luxury cars. The group has said in the past that it would look to work with outside partners in development of new Rolls-Royce and Bentley models in various areas. Vickers said: "There have been talks with both BMW and Mercedes to do with the future development of Rolls-Royce and Bentley models." The group, however, described the discussions as preliminary. BMW took control of Rover Group earlier this year.

Vickers added that engines were an area that had been looked at during the discussions. However, Vickers emphasised that it would ensure that any resulting co-operation did not dilute the unique character of Rolls-Royce vehicles. "Ultimately, the quintessential 'Rolls-Royce-ness' of it, the craftsmanship and all those aspects will remain," Vickers added. BMW already supplies airbags for Rolls-Royce cars.

Czech deal for BP

BRITISH Petroleum, whose chief executive is David Simon, has formed a joint venture with two investment funds to put more than \$25 million into extending its network of petrol stations in the Czech Republic. The joint venture, BP Cerpari Stanice CR, is 42-per cent owned by BP. The remainder is held by two capital markets investment funds — the Czech and Slovak Investment Corporation (CSIC), managed by Robert Fleming Securities, the international broker, and the New Europe East Investment Fund (NEEF), owned by Capital International, the privately held US fund manager. Both hold 28 per cent each of the joint venture.

Albania link for Premier

PREMIER Consolidated Oilfields has linked up with the Albanian state oil company, Albpetrol, to improve production from the country's largest oilfield and to complete drilling of an exploration well. The 50/50 joint venture, Anglo-Albanian Petroleum, aims to increase production at Patos Marizza, where output has declined from 28,000 barrels per day to 3,000 bpd. In addition, the partners will complete drilling at the Dumre well to 6,000 metres. Charles Jamieson, chief executive of Premier said the agreement was on course to increase production and as well as testing a higher-risk exploration project.

Coventry advances

BAD debt provisions at the Coventry Building Society have halved in the first half of this year, helping a year pre-tax profit up by 28 per cent to £16.5 million. The society set aside £13 million to cover bad debts, compared with £4 million in the first half of last year. The number of repossessed properties dropped from 384 in June last year to 161 at the end of June. Mortgages rose to £216 million from £208 million. For the first time, total assets broke through the £3-billion barrier to £3.05 billion. This is an increase of £234 million, reserves accounted for £154 million of total assets.

Vesuvius signs venture

VESUVIUS International, the Cookson Group subsidiary, has agreed a joint venture with Dolomitic, a subsidiary of the Czech Republic's state-owned steel industry, to produce ceramic tiles in Trinec, Czech Republic. Each partner will inject shares worth £1 million into the joint venture, which will produce alumina-graphite products in Trinec, Czech Republic, and Skawina, Poland. Tempus, page 25

Haemocell deals

HAEMOCCELL, the medical equipment maker, is close to resolving its year-long problem of distributing its primary product, the system 350 blood filtration and reinfusion unit. The company's problems emerged with the cancellation of an exclusive worldwide distribution arrangement with Stryker of America. Yesterday, the company announced the completion of a string of deals. Talks with several US companies are also at an advanced stage, which together with the existing agreements in the US, will result in sales forces covering more than 70 per cent of the American population.

Meyer director goes

MEYER International, the building materials conglomerate, yesterday announced that Richard Reynolds, the main board director responsible for Jewson, the group's building materials distribution business, will leave on September 30 "to pursue other interests." David Kendall, Meyer chairman, said that immediate steps were being taken to appoint a successor. Meanwhile, John Dobby, chief executive, right, will assume responsibility for Jewson.



M&S expands in Vienna

MARKS and Spencer is to open a third franchise store in Vienna in November in collaboration with Thomas Feldman Handels-Gesellschaft. The 16,000 sq ft store in Mariaterstrasse will sell clothes, furnishings and food. M&S's two other franchise outlets in Vienna sell women's fashions, lingerie and toiletries. The company has 76 franchise outlets in total, including 46 in Europe.

United Airlines

UNITED Airlines is one of the world's largest employee-owned companies and not under Chapter 11 protection as stated in an article on Luftansa (August 20). We would like to make it clear that this was an error, and wholly without foundation. We apologise to United and its employees for the mistake.

Valence says £60m Belfast factory project is delayed

By A CORRESPONDENT

A £60 million inward investment project for Belfast, which promised to create 600 high technology jobs over five years when it was announced last September, is in trouble with an admission by Valence Technology Inc, the promoter based in San Jose, California, that the technology on which it was based needs further development.

The factory, being built for Valence at Mullusk just outside Belfast, was due by now to be in volume production of wafer-thin lithium batteries for portable electronic equipment such as lap top computers, camcorders and mobile phones.

The rechargeable batteries, employing the latest lithium and polymer technologies, were claimed to be lighter and smaller and to have a longer operating life than the nickel-

cadmium batteries currently used in such applications. Motorola, said to be the world's largest maker of portable radios and cell phones, had a \$100 million commitment to buy the new batteries. Valence said when it signed an agreement with the Northern Ireland Industrial Development Board last year.

The IDB is thought to have promised backing exceeding £15 million for the project — considerably more generous than the inducement package offered by the Irish Republic's Industrial Development Authority, to which the project had also been offered, but which rated the technological and commercial risks rather higher.

Dublin's assessment seems to have been borne out by the statement from Valence headquarters in California's silicon

valley that the batteries were not yet ready for production; that the Mullusk project would be delayed, but that work on the technology was continuing and the factory would be completed. It was unable to say when, or if, it would be able to meet Motorola's requirements.

That company, meanwhile, is understood to be "shopping around" for alternative sources of high technology batteries. The setback has raised in Northern Ireland fears of a repeat of the De Lorean car fiasco of the late 1970s, which cost the Treasury more than £60 million. Some observers are again questioning the quality of the IDB's risk assessment, compared with that of its counterpart in the Republic, which is perceived by some observers to be somewhat harder headed.

BHP plans exploration in China

BROKEN Hill Proprietary plans to launch an exploration program to search for hydrocarbons in China's Pearl River basin (George Sivell writes). Agreement was signed at the weekend with the China National Offshore Oil Corp. BHP said, and it follows a recent joint study of the area.

BHP will hold a 100 per cent stake in contract area 04/52, and will act as operator. The acreage covers about 3,640 square kilometres and is about 180 kilometres south of Shantou, and 230 kilometres south east of Hong Kong. BHP said exploration operations will commence in the final quarter of 1994.

BHP said Amoco conducted seismic surveys in the area previously; it plans to continue its study of the seismic data before drilling one well, early in 1995.

Pillar set to buy shopping centre

By CARL MORTISHED

PILLAR Property Investments and SITO, its Quebec joint venture partner, have agreed to buy the Weston Favell shopping centre from Provident Mutual for £28.5 million. The deal hinges on complex negotiations over the future of a building housing the Mermaid Theatre at Blackfriars in the City of London.

Provident Mutual offered Pillar the shopping centre, near Northampton, as a package with the long leasehold interest at 1-2 Puddle Dock, a building let to KPMG Peat Marwick and Touche Renmant, the fund managers. Failure to complete the Puddle Dock deal gives Provident the option of withdrawing from the Weston Favell sale.

A complex lease structure at Puddle Dock involving the freehold interests of British Rail, King's College, Cam-

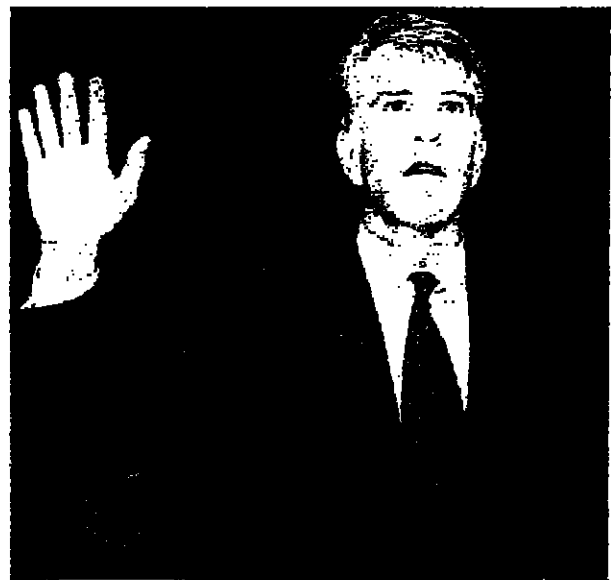
bridge, and London Regional Transport, as well as office and theatre tenants, could hinder Pillar's plans to redevelop the site next to the Thames.

Raymond Mould, Pillar's chairman, said the offices provided rental income of £3.1 million, but the theatre only paid a peppercorn rent. "Whether we redevelop with or without the theatre has not been decided," he commented. The Mermaid theatre is run by Gomba Holdings, the property group controlled by the Shami family. Gomba has a long lease stretching well beyond 2000.

The 254,000 sq ft Weston Favell centre is fully occupied, with two-thirds of leases having 15 years to run. The centre, which has rental income of £2.2 million, includes Tesco's largest foodstore, as well as WH Smith and Boots.

Wall Street ready to greet Altman with \$3m a year

FROM SEAN MAC CARTHAIGH
IN NEW YORK



Roger Altman is seen as a victim of politics

IN AN innocent world, the tight-knit cabal of top-level wheelers and dealers known as "Wall Street leaders" would have wept bitter tears as they watched one of their own writhe in the nest of vipers. Then, some should have resolved never again to trust a man caught being so economical with the truth. But, in the real world of high finance, they laughed as Roger Altman, the former Deputy Treasury Secretary, took a political bath in the Whitewater affair, and it is already clear that they will welcome him home on the Street with a slap on the back and a salary worth at least \$3 million a year.

As one insider explains: "These guys hold Washington in contempt. For them, going down there for a while is like taking off somewhere with a young girl or something. Altman being forced to resign? They couldn't give a damn!"

It has already emerged that Mr Altman never did quite sever all ties with

New York's Blackstone Group, the merchant bank where he used to work. According to the New York Post, he retained his limited partnership interests in some of the company's investment funds. And although Pete Peterson, his old friend and head of Blackstone, has refused to comment publicly, there is widespread speculation that Mr Altman will soon rejoin the firm. Mr Peterson, who once served as Commerce Secretary under Richard Nixon, could hardly hold a brief foray into professional politics against a man.

Mr Altman has known the President since their college days. When Mr Clinton asked for his help and advice just before the New Hampshire primary, in January 1992, he gave it willingly. After the election, while the transition team paced the floors of the governor's mansion in Little Rock, Mr Altman offered his insider's perspective on how the markets sometimes defied neat economic theories.

Last year, when Mr Clinton's economic

package seemed sure to be thrown out by Congress, Mr Altman stepped up. Mr Clinton made him boss of the "War Room", co-ordinating the informal White House spin-team with the job of cajoling, threatening and persuading disloyal Democrats into supporting the bill. He pulled it off, by a margin of two votes.

Administration watchers immediately predicted Mr Altman's rise would be meteoric, and it was, until Congress appeared in the role of the planet Jupiter. It was abundantly clear that he had misled the investigating team about his contacts with the White House to discuss the Whitewater affair. But, say his defenders, this was politics, not "Truth or Dare". Mr Clinton was going to find out how the Whitewater investigation was progressing, with or without Mr Altman. Nevertheless, America will have to pretend, probably on the second Monday in September, that it sees nothing incongruous about an apparently wounded scapegoat slipping happily down Wall Street.

THE TIMES

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السنة الثالثة

□ Flawed competition brings trouble in the dairy □ Investment or takeovers □ Atomic power struggles

Milking the market

□ LIFE on the farm is no fun for a minister these days. No sooner has William Waldegrave pacified West Country fishermen than the dairy industry is up in arms. And this time, the Government's own efforts at privatisation/deregulation are the issue.

Ending monopoly in favour of a competitive market is meant to cut prices. Sometimes it does, and sometimes it does not. Dairy farmers certainly feared it would. So the Milk Marketing Board monopoly, intended as a failsafe after the demise of the statutory Milk Marketing Board monopoly, has scooped the churn — by bidding up buying prices.

This was evidently not the idea. Progressive dairy companies, such as Northern Foods, hoped to become more vertically integrated by signing up enough farmers to meet their own needs. To achieve this against the innate suspicions of farmers they had to offer a premium to whatever the Milk Marketing Board/Milk Marque offered. Even this approach did not work. So Northern, like others, has ended up having to sign up with Milk Marque for the majority of its supplies while paying more to its own farm suppliers.

Round one to the farmers. Instead of a statutory milk buying monopoly facing a monopoly Dairy Trade Federation to fix prices, the milk

producers have seized the initiative, in effect creating something of a private monopoly, albeit a co-operative one. Instead of being the fragmented little folk facing big processors and retail milk suppliers, they have the whip hand.

The trouble is that the milk market was bound to lack an essential ingredient of free competitive markets: flexible supply. Milk production is ruled by rigid EC quotas, under one of those endless attempts to cope with the inbuilt deficiencies of the Common Agricultural Policy. British quotas presume that about 15 per cent of total needs are imported, chiefly in processed form as butter, cheese etc.

The net result of this supply shortage is that native butter and cheese-makers will suffer the stiffest rises in supply prices, which used to be fixed lower than milk for drinking under the old system of monopoly seller and buyer. Dairy Crest, the MMB's old processing arm, looks a classic sufferer. Higher prices cannot be passed on, the processors say, because they would be

undercut by imports from the Continent, where milk prices are generally falling, but many farmers also have interests in co-operative processors.

Not too far down the line, dairy processing jobs will be lost and the demand for milk will fall back. On that projection, everyone loses. But Humpty Dumpty cannot be put back together again and it is hard to see Mr Waldegrave intervening to weaken the hand of the dairy farmers. Short of an appeal to Brussels, the different sides of the industry are just going to have to sort things out for themselves.

Stuck in the old groove

□ ECONOMY racing ahead, investment down. The second quarter fall in capital spending may not be statistically significant. It is certainly insignificant compared with the isolated fall in the second quarter of 1993, which flatters the year-on-year comparison. But the disappointing pattern is clear enough



through the recovery so far. Whatever sectors of the economy are booming, the upsurge in capital investment needed to sustain that growth without running into trouble is not one of them.

What has happened in the early stages of recovery need not in itself depress future growth hopes. Manufacturing and recession-hit service industries could not be expected to express too much interest in expansion before they had battered the hatches, trimmed to survive and rebuilt their balance sheets. Investment kept up relatively well during the worst of the recession as companies paid money to save costs. Since then the property boom has collapsed

and, more recently, mining investment has inevitably tailed off sharply with the avalanche of pit closures.

There are, however, few compensating bright spots. Nor will there be, according to the Bank of England and CBI surveys of industry's required rates of return. These show remarkably little faith in the prospect of sustained non-inflationary growth and therefore little yet, among those who alone can do so, to raise the tempo of expansion in line with the fall in the cost of both short-term and long-term funds.

Hoare Govett, a broker that follows these macro matters, reaches the logical conclusion that big companies' under-employed financial resources will be used to mount another round of takeover bids. That would certainly fit the pattern of the past, where takeovers accompanied and have increasingly replaced surges in capital investment. It would also suit the combination of risk aversion and desire for quick predictable returns that still evidently characterise the average board-

room. Sadly, the last thing the economy needs is for such patterns of the past, ensuring low average growth, to be repeated.

Unclear economics

□ "LEVEL playing field" is fast becoming one of the most tiresome phrases uttered by politicians and industrialists, both through overuse and its sheer lack of sense. The latest deployment of the cliché is in the debate between British Coal and Nuclear Electric.

The two have been comprehensively rubbishing each other in their response and counter-response to the Government's nuclear review, the outcome of which will provide about as close to a government energy policy as anyone is going to see ahead of the next election. Deposited King Coal says new nuclear stations would be far more expensive to run than coal-fired plants. Gas-fired plants are even cheaper, but that is presumably not the point the corporation is making. Nuclear disputes

Coal's much-trumpeted 5p to 6p cost per kilowatt-hour figure and claims 2.6p for existing AGR plant and 2.2p for Sizewell B when this comes on stream, presumably early next year. Nuclear is also making rumbles about the health risk from coal-miner's lung and the environmental costs, which is a bit rich, but does take the debate into areas outside the merely economic.

The point, surely, is that successive governments' record over planning energy policy to match supply and demand has been uniformly deplorable. Coal and gas do at least have some advantage of flexibility over nuclear projects that take a decade to build; in the free market economy supposedly encouraged by Tim Eggar, this should count for something.

Future large group

□ SAVING Britain's aerospace industry will mean reshaping it. The Government effectively wants any future joint European projects, such as a Hercules replacement, delivered by an international company more tightly managed than the loose Airbus consortium. If the guts of British Aerospace's defence business is also to be in joint ventures, a merger with GEC would make even more sense.



Greg Hutchings has seen a basic salary increase offset by a fall in performance-related bonus payments

Tomkins chief's pay package falls

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

APPARENTLY running against the corporate trend this summer, Greg Hutchings, chief executive of Tomkins, the milling-to-guns conglomerate, has seen his salary package decline by 3 per cent.

But the fall, from £124 million to £120 million, detailed in the annual report and accounts, comprises an increase in his basic salary that is offset by a drop in his performance-related bonus payments. Mr Hutchings is already showing a £71,000 potential profit on share options granted during the year.

A year ago, on publication of accounts for the 1992-93 financial year, Mr Hutchings attracted attention when he joined the select club of executives earning £1 million a year, a 29 per cent profit rise and an improving share price serving to swell his total pack-

age. This time, the accounts show, his basic salary grew by 6 per cent to £623,000, but the incentive compensation awarded, based on a complex formula taking in earnings and dividends growth and the share price performance, fell by £77,000 to £574,000.

A company spokesman said the salary had been set by the remuneration committee of non-executive directors at Tomkins. The fall in the incentive bonus payments was mainly caused by the performance of the share price.

But that fall in his bonuses is almost equal to the increase in the value of additional share options, granted to Mr Hutchings as well as with other board members. The chief executive last July was granted 445,000 at 219p, the prevailing market price. The shares last night were 235p.

Talks speculation lifts Glaxo shares

By SARAH BAGNALL

SHARES of Glaxo, the cash-rich pharmaceuticals company, outperformed the market yesterday on speculation that it was in talks to buy a \$1 billion stake in PCS, the pharmacy benefits management (PBM) company recently acquired by Eli Lilly.

Glaxo's shares rose 11p before falling to end the day 2p up at 638p. This compared to the FT-SE 100 index, which fell 20 points, to close at 3,171.3.

Speculation has been rife in the City over Glaxo's plans for its £2 billion cash pile, heightened by remarks in February by Sir Richard Sykes, chief executive, that there would be a big deal this year.

Glaxo was said to have lost out in the race to buy PCS, one of America's three largest PBMs. Eli Lilly paid \$4 billion for PCS. All three largest PBMs have been

bought by drug companies, reflecting the rapidly changing face of the industry. PBMs are hitting manufacturers' margins hard because they buy drugs in bulk for hospitals and doctors, and so can negotiate significant price discounts.

Glaxo has hinted that it would be interested in buying a stake in a PBM, a move already made by Pfizer of the US which acquired a holding in Value Health. However, a spokesman at Glaxo said: "We have no comment to make."

Nigel Barnes, an analyst with Hoare Govett, said: "Eli Lilly are said to have been offering opportunities to buy stakes in PCS."

"This would give companies, such as Glaxo, the chance to expand into a fast-developing area at a relatively low cost."

MTM resumes dividend after returning to black

By SARAH BAGNALL

MTM, the chemicals business that nearly foundered last year, has resumed dividend payments after a three-year gap, having returned to profitability. The shares rose 6p to 85p.

The company made a £11 million pre-tax profit in the six months to June 30, against a loss of £11.9 million last time. The figures are not comparable because last year's loss was struck after a net exceptional charge of £9.6 million.

David Swallow, chairman, said: "We have returned to profit, resumed the dividend and have a strong balance sheet. So we have a future again."

MTM is paying shareholders an interim dividend of 0.5p, compared to the last

dividend of 1.87p paid in 1991. The dividend is being paid out of earnings of 3.7p a share.

MTM was a 1980s high-flyer but its fortunes began to crumble in 1992 when it issued two profits warnings within a week. The next week, MTM admitted that it had breached its banking covenants and was under investigation by the Stock Exchange and the Serious Fraud Office.

Burdened by large debts, MTM was forced to sell the bulk of its assets to rival BTP in 1993.

Since then, the new management team, which came on board two years ago, has transformed the company, culminating in April's £14 million purchase of household chemicals company CSM and

July's £10.5 million sale of its agrochemicals business.

The interim figures include a first-time contribution from CSM of 11 weeks. It contributed £22 million to total turnover of £14 million and £418,000 to operating profits.

Mr Swallow said that the company's continued recovery would be acquisition led. "It has to be as we have only got one remaining business, which is CSM," MTM has a two-strand acquisition approach: to buy a core business that can underwrite the dividends and an emerging business that can provide the group's medium-term growth.

"We are looking at technology-related areas. We are almost always in talks with people about possible take-

overs but my experience is that nothing is final until it is in the bag," said Mr Swallow. He added that the company was also in the final stages of recruiting a new chief executive.

The sale of the agrochemicals business was completed after the half-year stage and helped to boost the company's cash pile to £16.5 million. Mr Swallow said the company would consider issuing shares to finance an acquisition if the acquired company had a substantial goodwill element.

MTM is still trying to sell surplus properties, which include the small industrial sites at Hartlepool and Barton-upon-Humber.

Temps, page 25

RECs agree electricity price plan

EASTERN Electricity says it will accept proposals by Stephen Littlechild, the director-general of electricity supply, that will govern price rises in its core distribution business from next spring.

Most of the electricity industry has already accepted the changes. Publication earlier this month of the proposed price review sent shares in the regional electricity companies soaring.

Manweb also says it will accept the findings of the review. John Roberts, chief executive of Manweb, said: "Offer's [the electricity regulator] proposals are challenging. However, within the constraint of the review, we are confident that we can continue to provide low-cost, high-quality service while also rewarding shareholders for their continuous support."

Aerospace Engineering flies above industry woes

By LEZ DOLAN

A CONCERTED move into fast-growing electronics areas helped Aerospace Engineering escape the worst effects of a sluggish aircraft industry last year. This, plus benefits from a cost-cutting programme boosted pre-tax profits 71 per cent to £367,000.

Turnover fell from £27.16 million (including £9.52 million of discontinued activities) to £15.65 million in 1994. The cancellation by President Clinton of a particle accelerator project in Texas cost the company about £1 million in lost sales. John Davis, chairman and chief executive, reckons that business lost by British Aerospace cost AE a further £300,000 to £400,000.

On the positive side, Labtech, which makes microwave circuit boards for mobile telephones, improved earnings, and Inca Tooling benefited from expansion into new markets.

Mr Davis remains cautious about the future for aerospace



Ian Brodie, the finance director, left, with John Davis

components, which saw its share of turnover fall from 65 per cent to 55 per cent. He is optimistic about continuing growth in the mobile telephones and satellite communications fields.

The £1.2 million proceeds of the sale of a surplus property in Swindon, Wiltshire, since

the year-end reduced borrowings from 47 per cent to 36 per cent of shareholders' funds. News of similar deals is expected "sooner rather than later". Earnings per share more than doubled to 0.64p from 0.25p, but the dividend for the year is unchanged at 0.75p.

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Chinese officials who have the power to turn down applications for factory sites or joint business ventures will seek expensive cars as gifts

Spirit of the Wild West lives on in the shimmering East

Foreign firms trying to do business in China face corruption and political intrigue, Catherine Field reports

Since Deng Xiaoping began to open China's economy 15 years ago, the country has lured thousands of firms with the vision of golden profits that repay capital in only 18 months and the promise of the long-term benefits of a secure place inside the world's most populous nation.

British firms were not in the vanguard of the rush towards the shimmering East, but as China's economy expands at double-digit speed, they are working hard to catch up. But just like the City of Gold of legend, China is also a place to trap the greedy and humiliate the ambitious, a place where the unwary — or the unlucky — fall victim.

Growing in tandem with the rewards are the risks of doing business there. The foreign executive is faced with corruption, political intrigues and a difficulty getting legal redress if things go wrong. And should things go wrong, it can frequently mean imprisonment without trial for the business executive who had been welcomed to China as a VIP.

John Kamm, a business consultant and human rights activist, said: "It is boom time in the China business: a kind of Wild West mentality prevails. Disputes take place because it is not a system where the rule of law prevails."

In common with other developing countries, China has its share of problems with red tape, poor infrastructure and a poorly educated workforce. But those who do business in China say these are almost irrelevant compared with the corruption that has proliferated in the climate of "money fever". This is the standard term used in the Communist Party media's critiques of the country's wild development.

In the first four months of 1994, more than 7,000 people were convicted for corruption — 102 of whom were executed or jailed for life. More than 19,000 cases of economic crime were reported during that period, 12,000 of them classified as corruption and bribery. Throughout the whole of 1993, police investigated 30,000 reported cases of graft, but notched up only 6,700 convictions. Among those convicted this year have been a ministerial-rank official, nine senior cadres and 35 constituency chiefs at county level.

Liang Guoping, deputy procurator-general and a leading figure in the

year-old campaign, said that corruption had spread among officials at all levels: "They use their power to blackmail, demand bribes, embezzle and pursue private interests." At the highest strata in the provinces, officials with the power to reject applications for factory sites or joint ventures will demand gifts of expensive cars. They especially like Mercedes, BMWs or the Japanese-made Lexus.

According to a British manager who has set up factories in Peking and in the southern province of Hunan, officials will quietly make it known that a deal can be clinched after Mr Li has been given a cashmere coat, or Mr Chung has acquired a gold Rolex.

For those businesses desperate to replace shrinking orders from Europe with new deals in China, the cost of paying off the local managers is considered a necessary evil — and the bill is built into the contract price.

For many Chinese, corruption is simply a way of life that, along with the accompanying crackdowns, can be traced back centuries. During the Shang dynasty, the Emperor Pan Geng declared harsh penalties for any official found guilty of corruption. In the Tang dynasty, a similar campaign was started. The Ming dynasty launched an entire administrative agency to correct poor ethics among bureaucrats.

Mr Kamm said: "Corruption is a much more serious problem in China than when I started doing business there 20 years ago." But, he insisted, that bribes were not inevitable and foreign executives should stand firm, whatever the frustrations and risks of a deal falling through. "You should not give even the slightest impression that corruption is something that can be considered. Corruption is like blood in the water — all the sharks will come," he said.

Added to the problem of kickbacks

are the many difficulties that can arise between trade partners, especially those involved in joint ventures, where squabbles over copyright abuse, illegal production of protected goods, non-payment of debts and bills are legion.

But in China, the idea of taking legal action to seek redress is almost laughable. The country is only now trying to graft commercial laws on to its Communist-inspired legal framework. Often, even where there is a law, there is no commercial court capable of handing down fast justice.

In this void, a commercial dispute can be quickly transformed into a criminal matter, and with horrific results. If one's adversary has the right "guanxi" (connections). Last August, police in Changsha detained Philip Cheng, an American investor, for three days after a former business partner who owed him US\$165,000 falsified documents to arrange his arrest. It took Mr Cheng another seven months to get his US passport back, after a higher court ruled he had been wrongly arrested.

In March 1989, Choi Chi Ming, a Hong Kong investor, was jailed on trumped-up gold smuggling charges after he refused to pay a US\$531,000 bribe to police. He was imprisoned for 11 weeks, then fought for three years to clear his name in the Supreme People's Court in Peking. Only then did he get his passport back. He is now seeking damages.

Those at the top reaches of politics, with the best guanxi, seem fireproof. The government may brandish impressive figures about the numbers rounded up in its anti-corruption drive, but these are nearly all junior or middle officials. Only a token number of their superiors have been netted. Anecdotes abound about unlicensed greed and ruthlessness among the "red princes and princesses," the sons and

daughters of the elite surrounding Deng Xiaoping, who celebrated his 90th birthday yesterday. James Peng, a 35-year-old mainland Chinese with Australian nationality, is now languishing in prison after an alleged brush with his business partner, who is connected to the ruling elite. The power of the Deng dynasty is such that last October, Mr Peng was hustled from his five-star hotel room in Macau, which is Portuguese territory, and summarily bundled by police across the border into China.

Under Chinese law, no one can be held without trial for more than five-and-a-half weeks. But Mr Peng first appeared in court in July, just a week after he was allowed his first family visit.

A more recent case, highlighting the vulnerabilities of Hong Kong Chinese, has been that of Jimmy Lai. A Hong Kong clothing tycoon and publisher, he incurred Peking's wrath by publishing a fiery personal attack on Li Peng, the prime minister, in his Hong Kong weekly. Next, China realized that abruptly closing his clothing store in Peking, citing licensing formalities.

Last week, Mr Lai resigned from the board of Giordano, the clothing empire in which China holds a 10.07 per cent stake.

Alan Wong, an analyst with the WI Carr, the stock broker, said: "The message is obvious. They should keep their mouths shut and stick to running the business, rather than approach China with a political message."

However, a British trade official finds no trace of discrimination by China against goods from countries with which it has a political dispute. China and Britain faced a stand-off over Hong Kong after Chris Patten, the Governor, steered through a package of reforms to strengthen democratic mechanisms in the territory before the handover to Peking in 1997. China made a threat last year to retaliate against British goods, but withdrew it a few months later.

The official added that no one had been deterred from heading for China, even if the initial euphoria had been replaced by a more sober view of the risks. Trade between Britain and China rose 70 per cent last year, a figure likely to be repeated this year. He said: "I don't see people frightened off, and I do see a greater number of people committing themselves."

less than a month into his job as M&G's chief executive, David Morgan has demonstrated the way he wants the asset management group to develop. M&G's link-up with Dah Sing Financial Holdings is an important step in the firm's international expansion, even if it is unlikely to add much to the bottom line in its early years.

In the past, M&G has drawn criticism for its dependence on domestic unit trusts. The high proportion of retail savings in its funds under management makes it reliant on the collective emotions of private investors, making the results volatile.

In the last two years, M&G has been striving to widen its product and geographic base to diversify the earnings stream. The link-up with Dreyfus, the US fund manager, gave the firm a long-overdue presence in America. The agreement has now attracted funds of \$200 million, which is insignificant compared with M&G's total funds of £14 billion but is a platform for expansion.

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MTM is barely recognisable from its former self, a business that almost ran into a brick wall under previous management. Having sold most of its chemicals business to BTP, the new management has brought MTM back from the brink of receivership and this month sold the agrochemicals business for £10.5 million.

Credit is due to the new management for rescuing the company, but investors will be hard pressed to determine the ongoing business's performance from yesterday's interim figures. After taking out businesses that have been

the existing static-melt steelmaking processes. Eventually, the Thyssen link could be reproduced in other emerging markets in the former Communist world, even as far east as China. Cookson's existing operation is providing profits of some £4 million to Cookson, which the venture should be able to double. Cookson shares currently sell on 18 times this year's earnings and are not short of admirers in the City.

Further down the line, the joint venture shuts out any rival suppliers to the two East European markets, given that the venture will itself be minority-owned by the government-controlled steel producers in those countries, who will hardly want to place contracts for new plant anywhere else. Cookson's Vesuvius offshoot, based in Belgium, has, in any case, a commanding lead in the best technology to bring in more modern continuous steel casting when this replaces

led with great enthusiasm. "She was one of the best professionals I have ever worked with," says George Westrop of TR. "She had enormous enthusiasm and commitment." Carole joined TR from Spicer & Oppenheim five years ago, and was well known for her daring leisure exploits.

Crossed cables HOW embarrassing. Wassall, the acquisitive conglomerate (market cap £572 million) run by a bunch of former Hanson men would seem to have pulled off the greatest coup in business history. Financial Dynamics, the City PR firm, has sent a note to analysts that begins: "Wassall PLC — whose interests now include Cable and Wireless..." (market cap £9.4 billion). Nonsense, of course. It should have read General Cable.

SO WHAT will Henley Management College call its new residential building? Since Henley already has the PowerGen chair and the National Grid Conference Room, a reader in Bournemouth suggests: "Ohm Sweet Ohm". Any other ideas?

City tribute WIDESPREAD sadness in the City yesterday over the death of Carole Raschke, the 37-year-old who was killed in a parachuting accident in Oxfordshire on Sunday. Carole was marketing manager of Touche Ross Management Consultants — a role she tackled

with great enthusiasm. "She was one of the best professionals I have ever worked with," says George Westrop of TR. "She had enormous enthusiasm and commitment." Carole joined TR from Spicer & Oppenheim five years ago, and was well known for her daring leisure exploits.

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TEMPUS

A stronger weld

WHOEVER advises the Wallenberg family on corporate disposals should be put out to grass. Sweetheart deals between controlling shareholders are the continental way of doing M&A but the reaction to Charter's offer for Esab suggests Swedish institutional shareholders cannot be rolled over too easily. It took the minority shareholders no more than passive resistance to secure a 10 per cent increase in the offer. A proper auction of Esab might have landed an even higher price.

Yesterday's sharp rise in Charter's price suggests UK investors agree. Esab is good news for Charter, since the company was cut loose from Minicor and sold its stake in Johnson Matthey. Charter has had £150 million burning a hole in its pocket and not enough businesses to run. Esab is a textbook target for an acquisitive conglomerate: welding machinery

is a medium-technology business in gentle decline but Esab is an industry leader and is improving because of industrial recovery.

On the new terms, Charter is offering 380 kronor for shares that will earn about SKr22 each this year, according to Esab's directors. An exit multiple of 17.3 times is a 15 per cent premium to the Swedish engineering sector multiple — scarcely demanding. The deal looks more attractive given the company's current state of growth with profits expected to rise from SKr390 million kronor this year to SKr450 million in 1995. The deal looks even better under UK accounting principles which could add SKr50 million to profits by adding back depreciation of goodwill and patents. On such assumptions the company has been sold on an exit multiple of 14 times, a bargain in almost any market.

M&G Group

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Prices lower in thin trading

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

High Low Company Price Bid Ask % YTD

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

High	Low	Company	Price	Bid	Ask	%	YTD
300	298	1st Nat	298	298	298	0	0
300	298	2nd Nat	298	298	298	0	0
300	298	3rd Nat	298	298	298	0	0
300	298	4th Nat	298	298	298	0	0
300	298	5th Nat	298	298	298	0	0
300	298	6th Nat	298	298	298	0	0
300	298	7th Nat	298	298	298	0	0
300	298	8th Nat	298	298	298	0	0
300	298	9th Nat	298	298	298	0	0
300	298	10th Nat	298	298	298	0	0

BREWERIES

High	Low	Company	Price	Bid	Ask	%	YTD
300	298	1st Brew	298	298	298	0	0
300	298	2nd Brew	298	298	298	0	0
300	298	3rd Brew	298	298	298	0	0
300	298	4th Brew	298	298	298	0	0
300	298	5th Brew	298	298	298	0	0
300	298	6th Brew	298	298	298	0	0
300	298	7th Brew	298	298	298	0	0
300	298	8th Brew	298	298	298	0	0
300	298	9th Brew	298	298	298	0	0
300	298	10th Brew	298	298	298	0	0

BUILDING, ROADS

High	Low	Company	Price	Bid	Ask	%	YTD
300	298	1st Build	298	298	298	0	0
300	298	2nd Build	298	298	298	0	0
300	298	3rd Build	298	298	298	0	0
300	298	4th Build	298	298	298	0	0
300	298	5th Build	298	298	298	0	0
300	298	6th Build	298	298	298	0	0
300	298	7th Build	298	298	298	0	0
300	298	8th Build	298	298	298	0	0
300	298	9th Build	298	298	298	0	0
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BUSINESS SERVICES

High	Low	Company	Price	Bid	Ask	%	YTD
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CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

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DRAPERY, STORES

High	Low	Company	Price	Bid	Ask	%	YTD
300	298	1st Drap	298	298	298	0	0
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ELECTRICALS

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FINANCE, LAND

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FINANCIAL TRUSTS

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FOODS

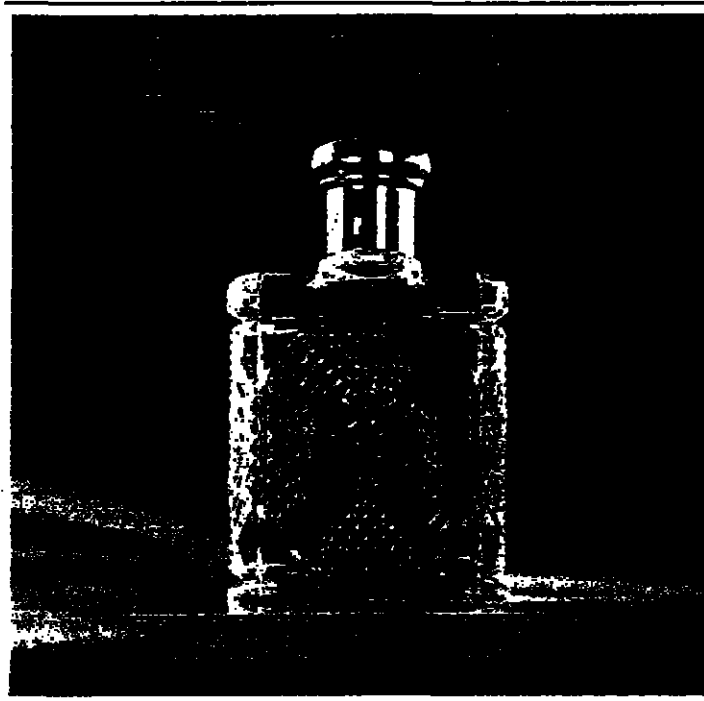
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HOTELS, CATERERS

High	Low	Company	Price	Bid	Ask	%	YTD
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INDUSTRIALS

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INVESTMENT TRUSTS

High	Low	Company	Price	Bid	Ask	%	YTD
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300	298	2nd Inv	298	298	298	0	0

UNIT TRUST PRICES 27

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FRINGE page 30
Andy Warhol lookalikes
and Henry VIII
impersonators: it's all
on stage in Edinburgh

ARTS

MUSIC page 31
Can a modern-day
instrument-maker
produce violins as
good as a Strad?



EDINBURGH FESTIVAL: A drippy Robin Williams on screen; pointless posturing in dance; burnished Beethoven

As de Toth says, just give us the facts

CINEMA: Geoff Brown sees the warning of a hard-boiled veteran borne out by festival wares

I didn't give a **** about prestige, says Andre de Toth. "I wanted to do what I wanted to do. And I did it on my own terms. I never had a studio contract in Hollywood, ever. In a way being under contract is a coward's way to live. It comes down to confidence, being able to say 'I swim across the stream. I don't need your jacket.'"

Paron the asterisks. De Toth, the 81-year-old director, is a man who speaks his mind, usually in words of four letters, plus one of 11 (sonofabitch). In the course of a deToth retrospective that has given the 48th Edinburgh Film Festival a much-needed kick in the pants audiences have discovered a neglected master of taut Hollywood genre films such as *Crime Wave* and *Springfield Rifle*. His writing is much the same: a maddeningly discursive but vivid book of memoirs, *Fragments*, is due shortly from Faber & Faber.

His battle-scarred maverick, who describes himself as "a Hungarian cowpoke from Texas and the high ranges of the Sierra Madre", may talk tough, but he also talks sense. The story and characters, he says, should always be the director's focus, not any concern for pretty pictures. And woe betide any director whose reputation gets in the way of his talent. That happened, he believes, to Hitchcock and Ken Russell.

De Toth's own reputation has previously been kept within film buff circles. By placing him in a public pedestal, the festival is harking back to the glory days of the 1970s, when gutsy American film-makers such as Roger Corman, Samuel Fuller and Raoul Walsh were given the worshipful treatment usually reserved for Ingmar Bergman.

The tradition's revival is most welcome, especially when the selection of new films proves meagre. From the line de Toth titles on display, the 1954 *Crime Wave* particularly impressed with its raw-edged visuals and con-cernor character. And *House*

of Wax, given a rare showing in its 3-D format, amused and delighted a packed house.

Would that some other festival films shared the punch of de Toth at his best. Bill Forsyth's *Being Human*, for instance: a film fanfared during shooting in 1992-93, only to become invisible upon completion. With its concern for human solitude, the need for love, and avoidance of conventional narrative, this should have stood as a bulwark against the Schwarzenegger brigade. But the film, co-produced by David Putnam, Forsyth's partner on *Local Hero*, never gives audiences

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

enough emotional or intellectual substance to chew on.

Robin Williams's part in the proceedings is especially annoying. He plays five characters, all called Hector: five poor saps from the Bronze Age, the Roman Empire, and the 12th, 16th and 20th centuries, struggling to find a warm spot on earth despite fate's hard knocks. In none of the film's chronological sections does he get to unleash his comic genius: *Being Human* reveals a Williams so meek and dithery you want to slap him, to wake him up.

Occasionally, Forsyth's eccentric humour peeps through. Chicken jokes are scattered about, particularly during the Roman story, shot at Pinewood, where John Turturro's unfortunate merchant expects Williams, his slave, to join him in death. The 16th-century segment, shot in Morocco, is enlivened by visual gags such as Portuguese shipwreck survivors falling to erect a gibbet and a cross in shifting sand. But the wispy stories never lead anywhere. You stare into a vacuum, wondering where on earth the movie went. The film opened in America in May; plans for a

British release are still uncertain.

Other Edinburgh films with British connections mostly belonged to the show-off school so out of favour with de Toth. None showed off more loudly than Robert Golden's debut feature *Beg*, an ugly onslaught derived from a theatrical twohander by Peta Lily and David Glass, produced on the Edinburgh fringe.

Mix *Britannia Hospital* with *Beyond Bedlam* and you still won't get the measure of this juvenile satire, set in an anachronistic hospital whose head doctor realises with a white poodle while patients and staff crumble. In the jerky, glossy images that reveal the hand of a commercials director, blood and worse regularly spurt from bodies, while the actors, Lily aside, try to outdo each other in crude behaviour.

What a relief to turn to Kim Fritcroft's *Tales from a Hard City*, a delicious quasi-documentary look at young scallywags and hopefuls trying to get into local showbiz in Sheffield. The neat pattern of some scenes makes the film feel more like a cosmetic re-enactment than a raw slice of life, although the characters appear real enough.

One is a karaoke warbler and smalltime thief whose hauls recently included 600 binliners. Another is a would-be actor with a smart line in patter, who tries to get car dealers to sponsor a car on the basis of his burgeoning charisma. The third is a young mum featured in the tabloids after a spell in a Greek jail for some overly suggestive dancing.

Hey presto! The local Bar-num, a cigar-touting bar owner called Wayne, propels her into making a record, "Dirty Dance", which gives Madonna nothing to worry about. Fritcroft's film-making technique may stagger between the rough and the smooth, but his portrait of people struggling to make something from nothing is fresh, cheering, and often very funny. The film won top prize at Marseilles' documentary festival in June.

Edinburgh's own prizes, inaugurated several years ago,



John Turturro as a Roman slave-owner and Robin Williams as one of five men named Hector in Bill Forsyth's disappointing *Being Human*

continue thanks to assorted sponsors. Students from film schools across the globe compete for the Channel 4 Young Film-maker of the Year Award. Other prizes are the Post Office McLaren Award for best new British animation, the Granada First Fea-

ture Film Award (chosen by the audience) and the British Screen Michael Powell Award for the best British film.

A brief foray into the Young Film-maker programmes suggests a dispiriting lack of films with any strongly personal content. Still, Peter Butler's

Luther and the Devil, from our National Film and Television School, earns good marks for oddity. You have to look to Guy Maddin's work in Canada to find anything worth comparing with this mock silent melodrama about a tortured Irish peasant.

For confident sheen, though, nothing can beat the American entries, no matter how peabrainied the script. As Gary Nadeau's *Red* (New York University) glides along, you feel this man will be directing for Disney by the time Edinburgh's next — and better, it is

to be hoped — film festival comes round.

© The Edinburgh Film Festival continues until August 28. Some of Andre de Toth's films will be shown at the National Film Theatre, London, in September: the director will be interviewed on stage on September 1

Nice sets, pity about the rest

DANCE: Perreault's production is all dressed up with nowhere to go

BEFORE becoming a choreographer, Jean-Pierre Perreault was a painter, and *La Vita King's*, the production he has brought from his Montreal base to Edinburgh, is dominated by his own designs. Great walls of panelled blood, painted sombre red, enclose the stage, which at first dark except for a beam of light from a rectangular opening cut in one side.

Through this the 12 dancers begin to assemble, two by two, dressed in nondescript modern uniforms, all apparently black (although a better light for it curtain calls eventually reveals some grey and even a touch of dark green). The stage lighting by Jean Gervais manages to sustain the feeling of gloom, physical and emotional, which seems to be Perreault's intention.

Ling up along one side,

La Vita King's

the dancers begin in varied gender pairings to support a partner across the stage and lie down beside him or her. After a lot of this we get some heavy stamping, some running, some re-alignments of groups. Stamping is a feature, sometimes reinforced with high kicks, sometimes hardly more than a staccato shuffle. People leave and return without apparent purpose.

Actually, what the performers do is less striking, less memorable, than the changes in the setting, as openings appear or disappear in the solid side wall, and the opposite one (with the arch) swings to an angle or pulls across the centre of the stage,



Dancers in Jean-Pierre Perreault's *La Vita King's* indulge in some more synchronised posing

dwarfing and hemming in the cast.

They are not only dwarfed, but dehumanised too, moving more like puppets than people. They strike poses that look like statues. There are embraces and touchings, but they look contrived, sterile. Only once, when a man stands behind the arch and another runs to-

wards him, jumps and is caught, is there a frisson of true contact, and that becomes invalidated as the action is repeated over and over.

Bertrand Chénier's intermittent taped score varies from almost hinting at a triste *bal musette*, via a saxophone blues, to the outright clatter of a steel foundry. At the end, one

might wonder what Perreault felt he was doing, and why he reckoned we might all benefit from spending an hour watching and listening. The title of the piece implies a view of life, but the world he shows us is a handsome no man's land of empty pointlessness.

JOHN PERCIVAL

CONCERT: The sound Beethoven knew

Hearing in heaven

In the four years he has been working with the orchestra, Brüggen has been setting his players' historical time-clocks back as far as he dare, with results that are by no means unfamiliar. The instruments are modern, but the vibrato is short, the woodwind ready, the timpani tiny and tart. The Haydn in Beethoven is given full rein. Every surprise springs out: the wrong key effect halfway through the trio of the Scherzo was the tease it should be. But the extreme dynamic contrasts

within the Scherzo itself, and its almost cruel compactness were something new. There were startling happenings in the finale, too: a cornucopia of ideas, all jostling for a place. And then there were those sudden pauses where the harmonic world itself seemed to stop turning for a moment.

These were the more obvious shocks of the new. There was also the frisson of delight created by the strings in the single long phrase which was the melody of the slow

movement, and the way the ear was led ever onwards in a first movement fired by the upbeat and the upbow.

The orchestra had obviously done long, serious work on this symphony. The work had perhaps been just too long, just too serious, though, for all its transparency of texture and nimble rhythms, forgot at times to wink and to chuckle — to enjoy itself.

Enjoyment is always a delightfully evident part of Thomas Zehetmair's violin playing, and he almost got a smile out of the orchestra in Mozart's Violin Concerto No 2 in D, even if the finesse of their playing was at times in danger of fading into the incorporeal. No such danger in the orchestra's encore: Schubert's *Rosamunde* was austere and gracious.

HILARY FINCH

TELEVISION

On the road to nowhere

FOR Sheena McDonald's *The Vision Thing* (Channel 4 last night) to come alive, the visionary needs to encounter an uncompromising advocate of the Devil at some point along the road. The idea of publicly testing beliefs that verge on the fanatical in a one-to-one encounter has now outworn its usefulness; when McDonald is uncomfortable with the arguments of her guests, but inspired by the sparks they generate, then these brief filmed interrogations can remind us of predecessors, such as *Face To Face*, and their success on the small screen.

David Byrne may be a visionary, but he is also a rock star, and rock stars tend to be well practised in rendering intellectual hatchet jobs null and void. In close-up, piercing eyes belie the apparent nervousness of that quavering voice. Byrne may sound as if he is about to collapse in a panic attack, but you sense the tough internal resolve. Particularly skilled in talking a good theory, he tends to lapse into language failures and nervous ticks when pushed into areas of difficulty.

For McDonald to penetrate the vagueness she needed to give Byrne a rougher ride. At telling moments, she succumbed to questions a fan might ask: is it lonely writing without a band? Will Talking Heads re-form? How do you protect yourself from fans' projections and desires? Not quite, but for McDonald to sail so close to adulation was disappointing. The territory covered in the earlier part of the interview (and this was, ultimately, a rock star interview) promised more. As McDonald defined it, Byrne's vision consists of a society in which music is recognised fully as an essential of life. "It's up there with water," as she put it to him.

Byrne's response was lucid and convincing. "It joins together things that are easily thought of as being apart," he said. So the cerebral and sensual sides of life are inte-

grated through a form which can be understood and enjoyed without expertise or intellectual mediation. The African source of so much music was particularly inspiring to him. Just to tap your foot to repetitive rhythms could be, he claimed, an ecstatic entry into alternative, non-clock time.

For the programme makers, the clock ticked. As this dialogue inexorably led to sticky moments, the need to shape a balanced chat within less than 25 minutes decided an outcome. McDonald quoted Byrne's own credo back at

him, including his observation on music's potential for nationalistic bonding and greater evils. If music can be so easily misunderstood or hijacked by anybody from political manipulators to marketing departments, how will we reach this visionary world in which music is a force aligned solely on the side of good?

"I really don't know," Byrne said. "I suppose I'm being just optimistic. I suppose I have to be." This was the only honest answer he could give, of course. Any rock star who delivered a ten-point plan for saving the world would deserve to be thrown under the baleful glare of Darius Hovey, Channel 4's serious *Devil's Advocate*. McDonald had decided already that Byrne's Scottish roots had given him a work ethic which demanded that if he was enjoying himself, then the rest of the world would follow suit. Then the celebrity chat took over.

DAVID TOOP

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EDINBURGH FESTIVAL: Benedict Nightingale finds only fitful pleasure in Fringe theatres

I'm 'enery the Eighth I am

What has been the oddest moment on the Edinburgh Fringe this year? For a time I thought it would be the sight of Henry VIII, resplendent in yellow and gold, slushing his audience's applause to put on record a weedy, querulous complaint against a critic who refused to come on stage and take part in a choose-the-best-queen contest. But my nomination goes to Eartha Kitt, a sublimely unlikely Molly Bloom in an adaptation of the last portion of Joyce's *Ulysses* called *Yes* and staged on and around a large white bed at the Church Hill Theatre.

Defender of the press: Ralph Oswick hits the heights of incongruity in his *Henry VIII: Diary of a Serial Killer*

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

with a girl he found snoozing in a laundromat dryer, but before he has become an Andy Warhol acolyte and lookalike. This gives Holmes the excuse to drop his Brummie accent and ash-blond wig, emitting a shrill, high-pitched wailing whine. "I think never having murdered somewhere amid *Grapes of Wrath* and *Twin Peaks* country. The author, Steffen Silvis, has fierce, indignant feelings about racism to share, but not yet the skill to avoid laboriously semaphoring his opinion, good or bad, about his characters.

If the Traverse is the Fringe's heart, the Assembly Rooms is at least one of its lungs, and this year breathing rather unevenly. Stephen Dirdale, author of *Anonak of Fire*, has a funny new monologue called *My World* in one of its many auditions, and it too is performed by the excellent James Holmes. But there the similarities end. Far from embracing the Birmingham-based transposing classes, the anti-hero escapes Midlands boredom by laming off to New York.

There, he ends up living with a girl he found snoozing in a laundromat dryer, but before he has become an Andy Warhol acolyte and lookalike. This gives Holmes the excuse to drop his Brummie accent and ash-blond wig, emitting a shrill, high-pitched wailing whine. "I think never having murdered somewhere amid *Grapes of Wrath* and *Twin Peaks* country. The author, Steffen Silvis, has fierce, indignant feelings about racism to share, but not yet the skill to avoid laboriously semaphoring his opinion, good or bad, about his characters.

Sarah Parks, Tim Danay and Darren Tighe in *Off Off*

Meanwhile, Hull Truck has temporarily renounced Coddie's comedy for a more realistic work, *Adam's Off Off*. This is an acute if repetitive account of the off-duty activities of a Yorkshire prostitute. She fusses over her son, an average virgin addicted to TV; she tattles and rows with a

brassy, vulpine character along with humour, resilience and, finally, a frigging coldness. Robert Llewellyn's *Blue Helmet*, at the same address boldly sets itself a test roughly akin to making an *Ichon* from the Holocaust, and flunks it. Maybe sharper lines and a harsher production would give genuine *Ichon* edge to the predicament of *Ulysses* soldier, awaiting a life-saving conveyer - a Balkan-style war, but I doubt it. Asland comedy at the expense of easy targets, like a Canadian commander with lost of right-on theories but little sense, hardly seems appropriate to what, by the play's own admission, is genocide. So to Natural Theatre's *Henry VIII: Diary of a Serial Killer*, the fringe's tit to tide and, in its cheerful, maddening way, one of its most enjoyable shows. Anne Elyne becomes a Monroe-like urie, Jane Seymour a hot-goddess, Anne of Cleves a hebeheaded Brimble and Catharine Howard the hostess of a TV show in which monarchs are invited to pick a consort for the studio audience. But I cannot understand why Ralph Oswick, both an ebullient king and one of the play's creators, should have felt obliged to spoil the nice taste he had set in everybody's mouths. Anyone has the right to sit atilly near the front, regardless to jilt the action; even critics.

LONDON

SARAJEVO Opera Factory makes a welcome return tonight to the repertoire of Nigel Osborne's *Tragic Opera*. Each night's performance is of all three parts: *The Trojan Women*, *Sarajevo* and *Sand Storm*. A compilation of music, drama, poetry and voice making the city's extraordinary life. Nicholas Kok conducts the BBC National Orchestra of Wales for a deeply contrasting programme of Mahler's *Rückert Songs* and a three-movement symphony No 7 in C minor, 'Leningrad'. He is joined by one of the UK's leading international soloists, Thomas Allen.

THE SECRET GARDEN, Dana Morgan's adaptation of Burnett's children's classic begins a three-week season today, the music by Steven Markward. A Christmas show in Newbury and a tour to America follows *King's Head*, 11 Upper Street, N1 026 1916. Tue-Fri, 2pm, Sat and Sun 12.30pm.

TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

Dance and theatre both offer new programmes from today. The Luckless Children Dance Company makes its UK debut tonight and although it has danced solo in London years ago, many fans are new to its style. The first programme is a new work, *Choreography*, by the company's founder, David Luckless. The second, on Thursday, includes new works. The Winter's Tale is Shakespeare as seen by Stephen Branson, director of the French National Opera in Orleans. La Merle is a new work by the company's founder, David Luckless. The third programme is a new work, *Choreography*, by the company's founder, David Luckless. The fourth programme is a new work, *Choreography*, by the company's founder, David Luckless.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London
■ House full, returns only
■ Seats at all prices

ALBANY

St Martin's Lane, WC2 0JF 071-937 1115. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat, 2pm and Sat, 4pm

LES PARENTS TERRIBLES

Sean Mathias directs a splendid cast for Cottesloe's drama of a family in crisis. Sheila Goh, Frances de la Tour and Alan Howard play the older generation, Jude Law and Lindsay Burns the young. National, Lyric, South Bank, SE1 071-928 2525. Tonight, 7.30pm; tomorrow, 2.15 and 7.30pm. Last performance: 8

THE MIRACLES WORKERS

Jenny Seagrave and Catherine Holmes as teacher and head, deal with a young boy's touching, unrequited love of a teacher. Comedy, Fenton Street, SW1 071-927 1045. Mon-Fri, 6pm; Sat, 8.15pm; Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm

THE QUEEN AND I

The deposed Mrs Windsor and her dyslexic family. Sue Townsend's script, often amusing and curiously acted but too warm-hearted to work as a comedy. In rep with Jim Cartwright's *Road*. Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 071-730 1749. Tonight, Thurs, 7.30pm; Sat, 7.30pm. First week

ST JOAN

Imogen Stubbs as the 'sister-sister' in a production full of metaphor. I can only hope the young doc, Peter Jeffrey, is as good as the inquisitor. Strand, WCC 071-930 8800. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat, Wed, Sat, 2.30pm

THE LADY FROM THE SEA

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Is this the new Stradivari?

A craftsman in Hampshire has made violins good enough to satisfy the finest players. Jim McCue reports

When Kolja Blacher, the joint leader of the Berlin Philharmonic, takes his place on the Albert Hall platform this Thursday and Friday for the orchestra's Prom appearances, he will be relying not on a classic violin of the 17th or 18th century, but on one made in Hampshire in 1992.

It was crafted by Christoph Göting, who trained for three years at the school of violin-making in Mittenwald, Bavaria, and then spent 21 years with the restorers J. & A. Beare in London. Restoration work pays well, but like many of his colleagues Göting hankered after the chance to make his own instruments. After a transition period of work-sharing, he finally broke away in 1991.

Göting regards his time at Beare's as the best possible apprenticeship, for it brought him into daily contact with some of the finest violins ever made, and enabled him to study their construction — and their secrets — in minute detail. He did major restorations on more than 30 Stradivari, typically worth hundreds of thousands of pounds. They included the "Cathedral" of 1707, which Nigel Kennedy played for some years, and one that had been missing for half a century after being stolen from the dressing-room of Bronislaw Huberman at Carnegie Hall in 1936.

For Göting, as for many virtuosi, what Antonio Stradivari did in 17th and 18th-century Cremona approaches perfection. "He had a wonderful eye for curves and proportions," says Göting, echoing George Eliot's judgment that he had "an eye that winces at false work and loves the true". Unfortunately, although he was celebrated, his methods were not written down. Fortunately, he was prolific, and some 450 of his instruments survive.

From such masterpieces Göting has noted the thickness of the plates, the height of the arching, width of the scrolls — every conceivable measurement down to tenths of a millimetre. He now keeps a similarly detailed log of his own instruments.

He also has plaster casts of the carved heads and archings of various instruments. "And you can see how different this one is, from Venice," he says, showing what appears to the layman to be two identical scrolls.

Göting's violins are built around a form, or frame, copied from one dating from 1705 used by Stradivari in his golden period. Yet for all this study Göting, unlike some makers, does not manufacture replicas. His violins are in the style and tradition of Stradivari, but not imitations of specific antiques, for he wants the freedom to make an individual contribution. After all, this most intimate and personal of instruments is more than a means of making sound. To the performer, it is a musical life-partner, a work of art.

Herr Blacher recently released the first recording of the violin con-



Instrument-maker Christoph Göting in his Hampshire workshop: a minutely-detailed analysis of violins made by the Cremonese masters is the basis of his craft

certo by his father, Boris Blacher, using Göting's instrument. He previously played an Italian violin from around 1700, but as a soloist he needed more projection. "I could not afford a Strad," he says, "but this Göting has the power and density of sound I need as a soloist. Most modern fiddles sound hollow, but not these. They are perfectly made, and will become more beautiful, and more valuable, as they age." Accordingly, he has bought a second one.

The very best sound, explains Göting, would be made by a "white" violin, which has not been varnished at all. Of course, nobody will buy a naked instrument, but varnish can only hinder the sound. The heavy glazing sometimes used on new violins to imitate the effect

of age has an especially dulling effect.

So what ingredients did the masters use to minimise this? What pigment? How many coats, and of what consistency? From the evidence of seepage through the holes and patterns of wear on the instruments, he is sure it was a light, thin oil-varnish. Once dry it must stay soft when warm but is chippy when cold. He is confident now that he is very close to the old methods, using eight thin coats after working in three crucial grain-fillers to close the pores.

Part of the workshop, a free-standing granary that Göting converted himself, is a kind of alchemist's laboratory. A cupboard overflows with hundreds of bottles and jars, labelled and dated, as part

of the never-ending refinement of golden tones. From microscopic crimson spots on the surface of some Strads, Göting has deduced that madder root (the fluorescent red used for Persian carpets) was the basic pigment, and now he grows the plant himself.

Upstairs, wedges of spruce and maple are maturing. By 15 to 25 years old, they will have hardened so as to make instruments as strong yet as light as possible. Some of this is wood that Göting cut in Austria in 1979. For the moment, he says, the traditional Bosnian supplies of maple have dwindled away, but at the rate of only five violins a year, this stock will last for decades.

In Italy, coats of varnish used to be dried by hanging the violin out in the sunshine. Göting's fiddles

are sometimes to be seen twisting in the breeze outside his workshop, but in Rome the drying is done mainly in an ultra-violet cabinet.

The elaborate seasoning of the wood before varnishing means that the instruments need very little playing in. They sound mature from the beginning, and have the volume and richness that players require. Without affectation, Göting characterises his sound as having the power and sweetness of a Stradivari, mellowed with some of the darkness of Guarneri in the bass. As a result, violinists are queuing, some preferring a Göting (at around £9,000) to an old instrument at perhaps 50 times the price. The leader of the LPO has ordered one, and two are with players in the Philharmonia.

He also has several requests for violas, and hopes one day to make a double-bass, believing that much could be done to improve on the mass-produced article. Though they were initially suspicious, the great orchestras are more and more willing to accept new instruments, as they hear their sound. In an age of fibreglass, mass-production and demarcation, this is a craftsman with the rare satisfaction of dedicating all the skill of his head and his hands to make something both useful and elegant. His own playing went no further than second violin in a chamber ensemble, but he remains close to his musical family. Customers often report on the performance of his instruments. And everything he hears of them is beautiful.

JAZZ

Round the horns

Zubop
Sterts Arts Centre,
Upton Cross

ZUBOP, a London-based sextet, dispense a lively, danceable brand of music often referred to as "worldbeat jazz". All too often, such a term refers simply to any band which plays the occasional samba or whose front line are wont to swap their horns for exotic percussion instruments and forced smiles, but in Zubop's case it is singularly appropriate, reflecting each member's experience in a wide variety of musical contexts.

The three-man front line play seven horns between them, and each of these instruments is of significance both in contributing a special texture to the band's overall sound and in evoking a particular style of music. Thus Wil. Wisbling's trumpet flares out in jaunty Latin-based numbers, while his valve trombone contributes lazy sonorities to South African township jive. Jon Peter's light but gutsy tenor saxophone is especially effective on funk, and his clarinet imbues the group sound with a melancholy plangency more often associated with Jewish klezmer music. Ricky Edwards's flute evokes the pennywhistle stridency characteristic of much South African music, his alto saxophone screams out over a ska beat or a mambo, and his bass clarinet imparts dark warmth to the odd eastern flavoured piece.

The rhythm section — Cape Town-born keyboard player Philip Clouts, electric bassist Duncan Noble and drummer Sean Randle — also have experience in everything from straight-ahead jazz to Cajun, trad to Tex-Mex, so the band's extraordinary eclecticism is totally unfurled.

In concert at the Sterts Arts Centre, a cosy, intimate open-air venue situated just north of Liskeard in Cornwall, Zubop had the children in a healthy sized audience on their feet dancing from the off. Most of the music in the band's two hour-long sets came from their latest CD, *Freewheeling*, but the studio is not Zubop's natural milieu; their sparky, infectious rhythmic sound shines in a live setting.

All bases, from South America through the Caribbean and Africa to India, were touched in a joyous and immediately accessible concert, but Zubop's real strength lies not in the magpie-like versatility of their borrowings but in the power of the jazz-based improvisations which spring from them. Unlike a number of superficially similar bands, whose inability to bring cohesiveness and individual character to their world-music plunderings renders them musical tourists, Zubop are the genuine article: musical travellers.

CHRIS PARKER

THEATRE

Blood, threat, fears

INTO the total blackness comes the sound of a woman breathing, the deep, regular breaths of one who waits for something to happen, something to bring her tense, watchful state to a crisis. The darkness lifts slightly and across the back of the wide, shallow stage, dim figures make their way. They take up the breathing, and as the dark pales a little more they are seen to be a drummer (Michael Rother), three women and three men. The women wear blue dresses and have the look of being ready for a man. The men wear short, red, ragged costumes and have the hungry look of men ready for rape.

Mörder, Hoffnung der Frauen is a play by the painter Oskar Kokoschka, written when he was 21 and performed in Vienna in 1908. If not the first Expressionist play, it is one of the earliest, and a remarkable piece to have reached the stage, even in those hectic last decades of the Hapsburgs.

Kokoschka's lurid poster is often reproduced in studies of the period, and the final tableau of Karin Magrowitz's production reproduces as best the human figure can the twisted pose of the woman holding the dead man like a haunch of raw meat.



Electric: Dotan Meir, Myriam Acharki, Anstey Thomas

Murderer, Hope of Women Greenwich Studio

The characters are identified in the curt, anonymous style that was to become typical of Expressionism — Man, Woman, Males, Females — the idea being that anonymity would render them universal. The Females desire yet fear the other sex. The Males provoke their leader to assault the Woman. Having done so, he plays with a dagger and she stabs him with it. The two other couples fondle each other till the light fades.

In so far as this frenzied sexual drama has a plot, this is it. But the physical energy roaring through Karin Magrowitz's 50-minute production gives an electric charge to the naked desire, fear and hope (universal?) of the combatants. The men catch the

scent of the women, glory in it, like animals. Outstretched fingers press on the ground. The whites of their eyes flash. Sweat gleams.

The three pages of text, translated by Magrowitz and Glen Neath, and helpfully printed in the programme, include the line "Man Finally Gets Up and Dances His Love Dance." Nine words that David Rubin converts into a spellbinding barbaric rite, ruthlessly erotic, advancing steadily upon the trance Myriam Acharki.

Kokoschka's fractured text is pretty chaotic but Magrowitz rightly uses it as a springboard for vividly imagined action. One crucial scene, the branding, she places too far forward for it to be seen from the back row — which is only the second row in this intimate theatre. But her use of low, front lighting, and the choreography set to the insistent drum, is thrilling.

JEREMY KINGSTON

PROMS 1994: An evening of Tchaikovsky; and (below) a tribute to the man who started it all

The BBC Symphony Orchestra respected the tradition of the Proms and opened its Tchaikovsky Night with a rarity. The cantata *Moscow* might not be a great work, but neither is it a poor one. It was commissioned, so the programme said, for the 1983 coronation celebrations of Tsar Alexander III; not surprisingly its text is full of patriotic fervour and rather forced sentimentality, to which Tchaikovsky nevertheless responded with something more than mere professionalism.

Among the many good things it contains are the lovely solo cello tune at the very beginning, gorgeously played here by Paul Watkins, and the admirably terse but expressive solo vocal music, for mezzo-soprano (fussic singing here by Marie-Ange

Bell's ringing success

Todorovitch) and baritone (the heroic and masculine David Wilson-Johnson).

The orchestral writing is dramatically coloured and exciting, even though Tchaikovsky resorts perhaps once too often to the stock response of fugal imitation; and the choral elements, delivered with gusto by the BBC Symphony Chorus, have appositive flavours of solemnity and glory about them.

This rousing opening to the concert, all of which was affably conducted by Alexander Lazarev, was followed by more familiar, and better, Tchaikovsky. First there was a marvellous, breathtaking performance of the Violin Concerto

by Joshua Bell, charged with spontaneity, intelligence and determined virtuosity.

Bell avoided the trap of making the music difficult though it is, sound too easy, though with his wonderful technique he surely could have. Moreover, his confidence was matched by an intensity of feeling and sense of structure that made even the vast opening movement coherent and cogent. And afterwards there was deliciously poised and poignant poetry in the Canzonetta, while the pyrotechnics of the finale, despite a fierce tempo, were never in danger of being scamped over.

Lazarev and the BBCSO

were the sharpest of partners here: after the interval they enjoyed themselves greatly in excerpts chosen for concert performance by the late Evgeny Mravinsky from the ballet *The Nutcracker*.

The programme note did its best to confuse us as to what exactly we were hearing, but never mind: the Act I music actually not so familiar — recalled the symphonic Tchaikovsky as *Moscow* could not, while the dances from Act II — including the "Dance of the Sugar-Plum Fairy" (John Alley was the celeste soloist) — duly beguiled a huge audience with their infinite charms.

STEPHEN PETTITT



Joshua Bell: spontaneity, intelligence and virtuosity

Musical history reflected in Wood

weird twilight world of Schoenberg's expressionism.

Of course, Wood was a sterling advocate of British music too, and was responsible for the composition of Vaughan Williams's *Serenade to Music*, written to celebrate his 50 years as a conductor in 1938. Friday's performance continued the tradition of lining up 16 starry names as the vocal soloists — always a hazardous operation when you think of those clashing timbres and egos, of the temptation to outdo one's colleagues sartorially if not vocally.

But this was a beautifully integrated

performance, headed by the immaculately controlled soprano of Nancy Argenta in the role originally allotted to Isobel Baillie. Her co-sopranos were the equally impressive Joan Rodgers and Yvonne Kenny, and, making a welcome return from retirement, Heather Harper. Playing Hiddle Nash was Anthony Rolfe Johnson, joined by Robert Tear, Kim Begley and John Mitchinson, while the formidable bass line-up was John Tomlinson, Willard White, Thomas Allen and David Wilson-Johnson.

Another work premiered by Wood was the Funeral March from *Granita*

and *Diarmid*, written by Elgar for a play by Yeats and Moore. As the music itself demands, it was presented by Davis not as a full-blown Elgarian nobleman but as a lament affecting in its restraint. Beethoven's Seventh Symphony, given in the good old-fashioned manner, was anything but restrained. With doubled woodwind and romanticised expression especially in the Allegretto, it made for a stark contrast with Gardiner's vibrant Fifth on period instruments a couple of nights earlier. Davis's account made all the right gestures, yet somehow failed to achieve real greatness.

A fitting tribute to Wood's memory was the encore: his own arrangement of Rachmaninov's C Sharp Minor Prelude, shamelessly blatted forth with full brass, percussion, harp and organ.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Why a daily dip is the fast route to fitness

A growing number of clubs around Britain are offering aquatic bliss, Ros Drinkwater reports

Of exercises, swimming's best.
Strengthens the muscles and the chest.
And all the fleshy parts confirm.
Extends and stretches legs and arms.
And with a nimble retro spring.
Contracts and brings them back again.
As 'tis the best, so 'tis the sum.
Of exercises all in one.

As Dr E. Baynard wrote in 1764, so it is today. Swimming is still the fastest route to fitness, a fact endorsed by both conventional and alternative medical practitioners.

The Health Education Authority rates it as the most beneficial exercise in terms of stamina, suppleness and strength while yoga teachers recommend it as the ideal breathing exercise. Plato considered a man who did not swim to be uneducated. In modern times, the Princess of Wales's perfect figure is testimony to a daily dip.

The mere action of placing your face in water lowers the heart rate,

a throwback to millions of years ago when man was an aquatic animal. Swimming is now Britain's most popular leisure activity, and there's the rub. With this year's soaring temperatures public pools are often filled to bursting point. Where to swim in peace and seclusion on a sultry summer's day?

The answer lies in a subscription to a health club. For those who are prepared to pay, a growing number of clubs around Britain offer the ultimate in aquatic bliss. Londoners have a variety to choose from: Holmes Place at the Barbican caters for City slickers; Champneys, a stone's throw from Piccadilly Circus, is a good choice for a pre-business-breakfast swim, as is the Royal Automobile Club in Pall Mall. Frequent flyers might consider membership of the Heathrow Hilton's health club as an antidote to jet lag.

Daily membership of the tropical world of the Sanctuary in Covent Garden, a glamorous women-only club, entitles you to use of all facilities including the perfect place to unwind, the 52ft-long therapy pool with exotic Moorish architecture, and the exercise pool, designed for serious swimmers.

The Berkeley, on the rooftop of



In the swim: Paul Kite, a swimming coach at the Conrad Fitness First Club, says confidence is half the battle for beginners

the Savoy Group's most discreet hotel, is the choice of Duncan Goodhew, Olympic gold medalist. "On summer days the roof rolls back and you get that extra special feeling of swimming out of doors right in the heart of London," he says. "After a gym workout there is nothing like lapping in water: you dive in and when you open your eyes what you see is refracted sunlight all around."

The Harbour Club, 500 yards west of Chelsea Harbour, offers a 25-metre-long pool forming the centrepiece of a three-storey high atrium in what was once the Fulham power station. The sophisticated colour scheme of midnight blue and lapis lazuli makes for a theatrically dramatic atmosphere.

With a children's section at one end, the pool is deep enough to do

tumble turns and shallow enough for the popular water aerobics class. Simon Pardoe, the marketing manager, advises choosing a club close to your home or work environment. "Statistics show that you are three times more likely to let membership lapse if you have to travel any distance," he says. "Sixty per cent of our members live within walking distance."

At the heart of Chelsea Harbour

the Conrad has an unrivalled site overlooking the marina. Plan an entire day out, a session in the gym, a swim in the luxurious 18-metre-long pool, followed by lunch or dinner alfresco at the brasserie and finish off with a romantic stroll along the river walk.

Professional coaching is a worthwhile investment. The Con-

rad offers one-to-one tuition by Paul Kite, a former competition swimmer who began his career in the army teaching soldiers how to swim. In Mr Kite's estimation complete beginners will need ten lessons to achieve confidence in the water and a basic stroke. "Most beginners arrive with a lifetime's fears and hang-ups. Confidence is half the battle," he says.

Once past the basics he encourages a variety of strokes. "Certain strokes prioritise certain muscle groups. By using all four — breaststroke, backstroke, crawl and butterfly — you exercise every muscle. Depending on your ability, swimming can burn more calories than any other sport and it stimulates the lymph glands which flush damaging toxins from the body."

Mr Kite cautions not to expect miracles overnight. "To be effective, swimming must be regular and at least moderately energetic. It will take about three 20-minute sessions of vigorous exercise (excluding warm-up and cool-down time) every week for six weeks before the benefits begin to show. Swimming is the ideal exercise for every age. My youngest pupil is four and my oldest is in her sixties."

Details: Holmes Place Barbican (071-374 0091); Champneys the London Club (071-734 8000); The Royal Automobile Club (071-930 2345); The London Heathrow Hilton (081-759 7755); The Sanctuary (071-240 9633); The Berkeley Health Centre (071-235 6000); The Harbour Club (071-571 7700); The Conrad Fitness First Club (071-823 3000).

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LAW

STUDENT VERDICT ON LEGAL PRACTICE COURSE 34



Many problems between ramblers and landowners stem from the inaccurate marking of existing footpaths and trails on Definitive Maps

Trails and tribulations

Inspectors must be given discretion in sorting out the mess of public paths, says Alastair Brett

With the long, hot summer almost over, flashpoints between local farmers and ramblers will re-emerge. But the work of the Countryside Commission and highways authorities to sort out the mess of public paths will continue until 2000, by which time Britain should have a network of footpaths, bridleways and trails which will be legally defined and should be properly maintained and publicised.

In the meantime, families will look with bemusement at the Ordnance Survey map, with its dotted lines crossing the countryside, and then stare at the blackthorn hedge in front of them and wonder where the path is, why there is a stile or gate, and who it was who drew up such a misleading map. While walkers may be hunting the missing path or wondering if mountain-bikes can be ridden on footpaths or bridleways, many local farmers and landowners will be cursing the local authority for making modification orders to the Definitive Map under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, upgrading a footpath to a bridleway or recording that there is a right of way through the farmer's back yard leading to moorland or some long-disused track.

The mess created by these conflicting rights — those of landowners to enjoy their property in peace and quiet, against those of ramblers to exercise rights of way which may be immemorial — goes back to the last century. Tess

of the D'Urbervilles was able to walk from Flintcombe Ash across the Blackmore Vale 100 years ago without any problem. Even at the start of this century, country people still used to cross each other's land to go to church. Tess's long-distance journey was possible largely because of the Highways Act 1835, which made the public responsible for repairing existing "highways".

Everything changed in the 20th century with the arrival of the motor car, metalled surfaces and the need for a surveying authority to establish who could go where, and what was a highway and maintainable at public expense. In 1949, the Government passed the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, which obliged all county councils to draw up Definitive Maps and Statements recording legal rights of way over private land, after surveying existing highways.

Not surprisingly, many authorities carried out perfunctory or hopelessly inadequate surveys, landowners were not fully informed of what was going on and rights of way were marked where none had existed, footpaths were marked as bridleways or vice versa, and other paths which were friendly arrangements between neighbours and friends were elevated to "legal rights of way" enabling anyone to walk over someone else's land.

The net result is that Definitive Maps and Statements up and down the country are incomplete, bear little relation to what happens on the ground and are a breeding ground for open warfare between pressure groups such as the Open Spaces Society and the Country Landowners' Association. Even path rationalisation schemes are condemned by some of the more vocal "rights of way" enthusiasts, while landowners say they are happy to "permit" friends and locals to cross their land but object to outsiders claiming a "legal right" to trample across their land however inconvenient that may be.

Into this mess has stepped the Countryside Commission, to help to bring some sense to what is one of the most exasperating and unsatisfactory areas of legal fact-finding. By the end of the century, all Definitive Maps should have been rationalised and updated and should clearly show not just local paths but also walks, rides and the more easily definable regional routes and national trails.

But sorting out this nightmare is causing legal bills to rocket. Some landowners, forced to try to maintain the value of their property against adverse rights of way, are running up six-figure bills judicially reviewing local inspectors' reports confirming

what they believe to be a dotty local authority modification order to the Definitive Map.

And it is the reliance on outdated title maps, estate documents or records going back years, which may weigh most heavily with the local inspector. What may be sensible and practical today in deciding where a right of way exists has to be ignored as the inspectors are there simply to "find the facts". This nonsense is eloquently stated in the Countryside Commission's own document, "A guide to Definitive Map procedures", which declares that a Definitive Map "must be modified, regardless of any effect on anyone's property interests, or whether or not the routes physically exist at the present time on the ground".

In most other areas of legal fact-finding, the judge or tribunal chairman would almost certainly be given a wide discretion in dealing with evidence which may be years out of date. Not in this area of law, and unlike in other cases where the court will be called on to come to a decision based on a "balance of convenience" test, the local inspector has little or no discretion and the landowner or ramblers' group may have to resort to the Highways Act procedures, and further legal expenditure, to get a footpath or bridleway diverted or rationalised.

The irony of all this is that

while the Government talks of levying tolls on roads so that those who maintain them can recoup the cost, there is little or nothing to encourage or help farmers to maintain stiles, footpaths and signs on behalf of the county so that walkers know where they can sensibly enjoy the countryside. In this respect, the National Trust, with its coastal paths in Cornwall, is a paragon of virtue and an example to be followed — something the Countryside Commission is already doing with its 960-mile South West Coastal Path.

The Government must act quickly to give local inspectors a far wider discretion to rationalise Definitive Maps and Statements. They need a list of criteria which must be followed before modification orders of any kind can be made.

Until this happens, the warfare between ramblers and landowners will continue unabated and the lawyers will clean up.

Fair play by the Bar Council?

As a part of everyday life, a lawyer has to be on the alert to spot possible conflicts of interest. Solicitors and barristers alike can never let it be said that their professional advice or conduct could be tainted by self-interest or a conflict between the interests of different clients.

The barrister who has been involved for one party in a case, and is then instructed also on behalf of the other and looks at the papers before he realises the position, must return both instructions and act for neither party.

The Bar Council itself should never allow there to be a conflict of interest between its own subscribers. If such a situation ever arose, which sector could the Bar Council honestly support? Surely, like the barrister who has seen the case for both opposing parties, it would have to support neither?

To put it another way, the Bar Council could never collect subscriptions from a class of members and then fail to protect their interests on an important issue or advocate a policy strongly to their disadvantage.

Employed barristers are a substantial minority of subscribers to the Bar Council. Its statistics show that last October there were 7,735 barristers in independent practice, 1,692 employed barristers, 1,846 non-practising barristers and 659 barristers in the Crown Prosecution Services registered to pay subscriptions.

Then, and now, the rights of audience of employed barristers are limited by the Bar Code of Conduct so that an employed barrister may appear only "on behalf of his employer" and even then, not in the High Court or above, and only "so long as he does not himself supply legal services to the public". This rule was, not surprisingly, categorised by the Director General of Fair Trading (Advice for the Lord Chancellor, April 1992) as restricting competition. Sir Gordon Borrie, QC, said the ruling had "the effect of removing from a qualified barrister some of the rights to appear for his client, namely his employer, solely on account of the barrister's employment status and regardless of his experience or training in advocacy".

You might suppose that the Bar Council, having collected all those subscriptions from employed barristers, would want to alter its own rule in favour of this important section of its membership. But when invited by the Lord Chancellor to amend the Bar's rule at the end of 1992, the then chairman of the Bar declined. The rule remains and employed barristers still have severely restricted rights of audience. Some have considerable experience of advocacy. They want full rights of

audience on behalf of their employers. Sometimes they must be the best people to appear for their employer as advocates or, at the very least, the best people to sit behind a leader from the independent Bar in court.

In such cases it would be much less expensive for the employer to use its own "in-house counsel". A paper submitted by the Bar Association for Commerce, Finance and Industry in May 1992 recognised that it would be necessary to show that any employed barrister wishing to appear as an advocate in the highest courts should first have appeared regularly in the lower ones. It recognised that they would need to demonstrate that their contract of employment left them free to exercise full professional control of any case in which they appeared as an advocate. Subject to these safeguards, they believed that they had the same ability, the same honour as any other

barrister, the same ability to recognise any conflict of interest situation as any other barrister — and that they know, just as well, how they should act in accordance with the best traditions of their profession.

In contrast to barristers, there is no conflict between employed solicitors and their colleagues in private practice. The Law Society is fighting to obtain better rights of audience for all solicitors without distinction. The Law Society treats its members equally in other ways. There have been three employed solicitors who became presidents of the Law Society and others may do so. The constitution of the Bar provides that only barristers in independent practice may be chairman or vice-chairman of the Bar.

Whatever protestations to the contrary, there is discrimination. At least as seen by the Bar Council it could not be in the interests of the majority of its subscribers that they should share their existing rights with employed colleagues. But should the Bar Council continue to act for classes of barristers with such disparate interests?

I asked Robert Seabrook, QC, chairman of the Bar, what the answer was. He said that he would like to think about it. He later wrote: "On reflection, I do not think it sensible to provide a quote for your article without seeing what it is you are saying..." This begs the question — and surely the question is clear enough.

DEREK WHEATLEY

● Derek Wheatley, QC, a vice-president of the Bar Association for Commerce, Finance and Industry, is banking consultant with Watson, Farley & Williams. The views expressed are his own.



Derek Wheatley, QC: there is discrimination

Insolvent solved

INSOLVENCY practitioners are nervously awaiting the outcome of two cases which will decide whether they will be personally liable for an estimated hundreds of millions of pounds of payments due to former employees of failed companies.

In December, the House of Lords is due to hear both the Paramount Airways case (which was heard by the Court of Appeal in February and was decided against Paramount administrators) and the test case of Leyland DAF and Ferranti.

In the Leyland case, which was decided against the receivers in the High Court, it was decided that the implications were so serious that permission has been given to leapfrog the Court of Appeal and go direct from the High Court to the House of Lords.

The House of Lords decision will only affect insolvencies before March 1994, as the Government has since introduced emergency legislation to protect insolvency practitioners in the future from potential personal liability.

Bobby dazzler

YOU cannot have too much of a good thing. Or can you? According to the Home Office, a plan to have two police forces policing one area is not something to make residents sleep soundly in bed, it is illegal. The Local Government Commission came up with the idea as part of its proposal to bring together Lowestoft and Yarmouth in East Anglia under the banner of a new area called Yartoft. Names may change but the old police authority boundaries should remain in place, apparently. The Suffolk Council leader, Chris Mole, has dismissed the plan as "ridiculous".

Designed to work

BURSTOWS, of Crawley, West Sussex, is offering an annual retaining award after successfully helping a local single mother, Alison Dixon, to take an interior design course at the London School of Design. Elaine Allen, a

spokeswoman, says: "The amount of the award is set on a case-by-case basis. But we see it as a way of giving something back to our local community."

The award is open to people living in West Sussex and applications for 1995 close on October 31.

Bar on success

BARRISTERS in favour of direct access should contact Bar Council member Neil Addison before the council's next meeting on November 12. Mr Addison will be tabling a resolution proposing that barristers should be allowed to deal with the public directly and form partnerships.

He writes in an article in the *New Law Journal* that direct access equals survival for the common law Bar. If the Bar Council does not reverse its position on this issue, he claims: "The reduction in the size of the Bar could be as much as 50 per cent. We are certainly looking at around

2,000-3,000 barristers being forced out of practice."

Race case settled

THE New York firm White & Case has paid \$500,000 (£325,000) to settle an action brought by a former black associate in its Los Angeles office. The plaintiff, Harvard graduate Andargachew Zalleke, claims that the firm discriminated against him. White & Case denies the charge, and says it settled to avoid an expensive trial.

Ethnic study

ETHNIC minority students have fared better this year on the one-year vocational course at the Bar law school but have still done worse as a group than white students. The Council of Legal Education (CLE), which runs the school, says that the percentage from ethnic minority backgrounds who passed rose from 70 per cent to 80 per cent.

The overall pass rate of the 1,010 students was 89.5 per cent — again up on last year's 85 per cent. Birkbeck College, London University, which has been researching the disparity is to conduct an investigation.

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Early verdict on the legal practice course

About 6,000 aspiring solicitors have just received the exam results which may take them to the next rung on the legal ladder. The results follow their completion of the much-heralded Legal Practice Course (LPC), which is in its first year and is aimed at teaching skills to would-be solicitors.

The course may have been foremost in practical professional education but it has been an expensive experiment for many recipients.

The LPC addresses criticisms of the outmoded Law Society Finals (LSF) course, taken by students until last year. The LSF lent particular weight to rote-learning of traditional material, often without an eye to commercial reality. Janet Lea, student support officer at the College of Law in Chester, confirms that change was essential: "We needed a course which was more practical and relevant."

The LPC is not just a fashionable refashion for the GCSE generation who are now reaching postgraduate age. It is a new course built around a practical framework. Material is put into a "real-world" context which means that interactive teaching methods involving group problem-solving relate to what a trainee will encounter in practice.

As the course progresses, the puzzle of a solicitor's working day, contemplated by many of us during past work placements, becomes unraveled. I have experienced moments of enlightenment when I have finally understood what I was doing on a placement in a litigation department 12 months ago. The LPC's emphasis on practical competence shows in its concentration on skills such as interviewing, advocacy and negotiation. Getting a taste of these areas before encountering them in practice can only be beneficial — even enjoyable for those students who were still wondering whether they should have gone to RADA instead.

Unfortunately, the LPC offers few other outlets for intellectual creativity, the "join-the-dots" nature of the course tending to stifle any original thought. Although

The LPC is expensive and can not guarantee you a job, reports Simon Harper

concentration on legal procedure makes this inevitable to some extent, surely the flexibility and initiative stressed in the recruitment process should also be fostered.

Furthermore, despite an extensive range of options available for the third term, two terms of compulsory courses can be frustrating for those who have already chosen their career path. A broad base is essential, but it can be difficult for those who are, say, City-bound to be inspired by the intricacies of probate law. The only will which they are likely to work on in the future is their own.

The LPC isn't perfect but it does appear to be heading in the right direction. Janet Lea says that there will be no major changes made for the next academic year.

However, for many students on the LPC, concern about jobs and finance exerts the greatest pressure in a year already packed with coursework and exams. With fewer than 4,000 training contracts on offer to 6,000 LPC students, it is not an easy conveyor-belt ride into the profession. Large numbers of students with good credentials are being advised to look to other forms of employment after spending up to five years obtaining legal qualifications.

Sophy Williams, who completed the LPC this year, has a law degree from Sussex University and three years' experience working full-time in various advice bureaux. After more than 50 unsuccessful applications for a training contract, she is now hoping to return to her previous job to pay back her £6,500 debt.

The expense involved in completing the LPC is not inconsiderable. Fees have soared to nearly £5,000, and there is maintenance on top of this. Some of the larger commercial firms sponsor their recruits but only a few local authorities still offer grants.

A recent survey indicates that Ms Williams's case is typical, with about half the

students relying solely on private means to fund the course and a similar number owing more than £5,000.

The College of Law tries to give adequate warning of the financial burden awaiting those contemplating the course. It is unknown how many people are prevented from applying for this reason. For others, the combination of mounting debts and no training contract on the horizon has meant that they have been forced to drop out.

These financial constraints seem likely to have the long-term result of restricting a legal career to those who can afford it rather than those who are most able.

Furthermore, students are being pressed into training with large commercial firms, whatever their true ambitions, because smaller legal-aid or private-client practices can offer little or no financial security during the LPC. "The Law Society buries its head in the sand," Ms Williams says. "It should take some responsibility after validating more and more LPC courses."

The profession is now armed with a progressive training scheme to help to silence critics and ensure better lawyers. After so much energy has been put into the new course, it seems a pity to let financial difficulties restrict entry to the profession.

It remains to be seen how the first graduates from the LPC will fare in practice. But there is an overall feeling of relief among students who have avoided the grind of the old LSF. A friend who completed the LSF last year reported being unable to concentrate during her exams because of the sound of other candidates sobbing. Now that the academic side has improved, it's the financial pressures which are bringing the tears.

● The author attended the LPC course at the College of Law, Chester



Simon Harper: concentrating on skills like advocacy, interviewing and negotiation



Richard Hamilton: the stress of one make-or-break set of exams has been alleviated

Students will be prepared for their first day in the office, Richard Hamilton writes

Some 6,000 students have just completed the LPC. This has been a bold initiative with far-sighted objectives. It has sought to provide trainee solicitors with the practical skills required in the office.

The emphasis has been on clients, not cases, and pragmatic advice, not lengthy legal argument. Legalese, slack drafting and slovenly work are out; plain English, alert client care and the terms of the Financial Services Act very much in. So too are negotiation and arbitration. Posing tomorrow's client should, in theory, be cheered.

The LPC has seen a marked departure from its predecessor — the old Law Society's Finals (LSF). Whereas on the LSF about 80 per cent of the tuition was lecture-based, at the College of Law it has been nearer 25 per cent on the LPC. The remaining time has been given to discussion and problem-solving in groups, following prearranged lesson plans with the aid of course resource books. Exams have been open-book and staggered throughout the year, combining multiple-choice questions with written answers.

The content of the business, conveyancing, probate and litigation heads has remained broadly the same, with the notable addition of EC competition law and the drafting of supply-side agreements to the business course. The main changes here have been the introduction of the compulsory skills — negotiation, advocacy, client interviewing, legal research and drafting — and the optional subjects in the final term, which range from welfare, planning and environmental law to public companies and the City.

The course has become less of an academic exercise and more directly applicable to training. The advocacy and client interviewing skills, for example, have put students on the spot and emphasised that as solicitors, it is people they

will be dealing with. Open-book exams have moved away from the need to assimilate vast bodies of knowledge by rote. The stress of one make-or-break set of exams has been alleviated. With an anticipated 90 per cent pass rate, few would wish to revert to the old LSF.

But equally, few would claim that the LPC has got it all right. The average course fee is £4,800, and three-quarters of students owe between £1,000 and £10,000; many question whether it is good value for money. The lecturer's role has tended to be one of clarification rather than dissemination; the student's task one of preparation and self-motivation. There has been much twiddling of thumbs. Some have facetiously called it a correspondence course. Many students would welcome a greater degree of didacticism to provide a directive to classes that students, on their own, can seldom supply.

Many students have been cynical about a course which attempts to recreate what is done in practice in the classroom and have, at times, treated it as something of a charade. Similarly, some have found the teaching of certain skills (negotiation and drafting especially) verging on the patronising; other skills (for example, legal research) have not been taught thoroughly enough.

The requirements to pass the in-course skills and assessments vary tremendously. On some courses the third-term options are not examinable. There are similar discrepancies in fees, which vary from £4,000 to £5,200 for, ostensibly, the same course.

Every new course has its teething troubles. For all that, much has been for the good. Students will almost certainly be better prepared for their first day in the office.

● The author was a student at the College of Law in York

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American basketball giant approaches acceptance on a higher plane

Dream conjures images of greatness

By OLIVER HOLT

TWO security men with earpieces that made them look like secret service agents stood guard over The Dream at a London hotel yesterday. There were no fans in the lobby screaming for him, no autograph-signing sessions planned, but anyone who has trodden in the illustrious footsteps of American basketball greats like Magic Johnson, Michael Jordan and Charles Barkley merits protection as well as a nickname.

Hakeem Olajuwon is basketball's reigning icon, the Most Valuable Player in most of the many categories available, the captain and star of the Houston Rockets, this year's winners of the National Basketball Association (NBA) finals. He got his sobriquet because of the neat rhyme and his sublime talents, not for his hulking 6ft 11in frame which made a comfortable room look cramped.

On his way to Munich, Madrid and Paris on a promotional tour, he did a few interviews yesterday, indulging his passion for English football by watching Wimbledon's players train, and posed for pictures in front of Big Ben in his Rockets kit, all in relative peace. Jordan would have attracted Michael Jackson-style adoration if he had attempted the same things, but he is busy hitting home runs in minor-league baseball in Alabama.

The NBA is still searching for a successor, trying to wean America's youth away from wanting to "be like Mike", trying to find a substitute as the popularity of the game, and television viewing figures, slide. Shaquille O'Neal, of Orlando Magic, is about the closest it has got, but he is too lumbering and graceless for the slipper to fit and Barkley is

rumbling about following Jordan into retirement. As the leading player on the leading team, Olajuwon, who was born in Nigeria and only started playing basketball when he was 17 as a means of gaining access to an education in the United States, is the obvious choice. After ten years striving for the championship, he is almost universally acknowledged as the best player in the league at present, a centre who can produce blocks that take experts' breath away, a points-scorer opponents feel



The Dream rises to the challenge for Houston

obliged to try to smother with "double coverage". "Hakeem is a great weapon defensively," his colleague, Vernon Maxwell, said, "because he erases and intimidates."

He earns the obligatory multi-million dollar salary but, at 31, champion status has come to him late. Since he rediscovered Islam three years ago, he has fought to banish all signs of demonstrativeness from his performances and critics have bemoaned the lack of charisma in the Houston

team. "I view things differently now," he said. "I strive for a higher moral code. My goal is to please God. For me, there is no other choice than to seek knowledge and avoid ignorance. Worldly things have become less important."

He speaks calmly and politely, smiles slowly and widely, flicks through a magazine while he talks. He exudes serenity and unhurriedness, smooths everything down. His emotions appear to be firmly on hold, smothered with relaxation. His tone is that of a religious sage — "the longest journey starts with a single step" is his version of the old adage that a season is a marathon not a sprint — and only rarely does he show real enthusiasm for his subject.

"It is ridiculous to suggest the fans are turning away from the NBA," he said in one burst. "The NBA, and basketball period, is the fastest growing sport. The game has the greatest athletes in the world and you could not turn the fans away even if you tried."

"Michael Jordan was like the president of the league but there are many other talents and other superstars. His absence has allowed players like Shaquille to come through and now, if Jordan came back, it would add an extra dimension to everything when he tried to recapture the same levels of performance. I would like to see him come back."

"If you want popularity and recognition, you play for one of the big-city teams. But for quality of life, I prefer to stay in Houston. So many people seem to be talking about retirement but I am on top of my game. I'm really training hard now rather than just relying on natural talent. I'm improving all the time. Last year, I enjoyed it so much, I felt like a rookie."



Olajuwon, who bestrode American basketball during Houston Rockets' triumphant season

Reilly attracted away on eve of Australia series

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

AS rugby league prepares to swallow some bitter realities about the game's parlous state, Malcolm Reilly weighed in with a more indigestible truth about the Great Britain coach's job: it is under-resourced and therefore undermined. Reilly confirmed yesterday that he is leaving for a lucrative coaching position in Australia's World Cup competition.

The itch that Reilly, also the coach of Halifax, has decided to scratch after seven years at the helm of the national team could not be more ill-timed with Australia, the world champions, due in October. In 13 months, there is also the Centenary World Cup.

That the Rugby Football League (RFL) must now decide whether to retain Reilly for the Australia series before he takes up his post with Newcastle Knights, is partly self-inflicted. Throughout, it has failed to heed his warnings about the sometimes bungling disregard for preparation of the British team.

In addition to a £150,000 two-year contract with Newcastle, which Halifax and the RFL could not possibly match, Reilly knows that in Sydney he will get the sort of preparation, co-operation and financial backing the domestic game is incapable of delivering.

Newcastle said last night that it would permit Reilly to continue in the Britain job for the series with the Kangaroos. Between this magnanimous gesture and consideration by the RFL board of directors this week as to what they can do with it, Reilly pointedly admitted he would not be overly disappointed at being replaced for the three matches

against Australia. His lament echoed a familiar story: "I've no manager, no assistant coach, no physiotherapist, and the Aussies arrive in five weeks. I've talked to the league about it, but nothing has been done. It's just been very frustrating."

The position of the RFL remained unclear last night. "The full implications of Malcolm's move have to be evaluated," Maurice Lindsay, the chief executive, said.

The RFL faces a further harsh truth: the dearth of replacements. A decade of clubs turning to Australia for coaches has restricted the development of home-grown talent. Phil Larder, at Keighley, knows the ropes as a former national director of coaching, and at this stage, John Joyner (Castleford), Ellery Hanley (Leeds) and Gary Hetherington (Sheffield Eagles) are the weaker bets. Reilly's legacy is a rich one — 30 of the 43 internationals under him have been won — and the present squad is as good as it has ever been.

Under Maurice Bamford, Britain made some progress after the disastrous years of the early and mid-1980s, but when Reilly assumed control in 1987, it seemed then that Britain might never beat Australia again.

Under him, they have managed it three times, winning in Sydney in 1988, Wembley in 1990 and Melbourne two years ago. New Zealand have been beaten in three series, but defeating Australia in a series — a feat not achieved since 1970, when Reilly was a member of the Britain team — might well now elude Reilly the coach.

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Hong Kong hosts Hide title contest

هكذا من الاله

BBC1

- 6.00 Business Breakfast (81217)
 7.00 BBC Breakfast News. News and topical reports from home and abroad. Including extended bulletins on the hour and headlines every 15 minutes (83717694)
 9.05 Commonwealth Games Grandstand presented by David Rhy-Jones and Sue Barker. Includes gymnastics highlights and action from the bowls competition (s). With News (CeeFax), regional news and weather at 10.00 (82261897)
 11.00 News (CeeFax). Regional news and weather (2556439) 11.05 Remington Steele. Private detective drama series starring Pierce Brosnan and Stephanie Beacham. This week's episode is a thriller (s) (8176897) 11.50 Red and Blue Cartoon. The Umbrella (s) (8505526)
 12.00 News (CeeFax). Regional news and weather (7901120) 12.05 Big Day Out. Bob Langley, Victoria Studd and Mo Dutta continue their cultural tour of Britain with a visit to Morcombe (s) (8494940) 12.55 Regional News and weather (2556504)
 1.00 One O'Clock News (CeeFax) and weather (82192) 1.30 Neighbours (CeeFax) (s) (81434033)
 1.50 Going for Gold. General knowledge quiz with European contestants. The question-master is Henry Kelly (s) (8155149)
 2.15 FILM: Artists and Models (1955) starring Dean Martin, Jerry Lewis and, in her second feature film, Shirley MacLaine. Comedy about a strip cartoonist who uses his friend's top secret nightgowns for his comic strip. Directed by Frank Tashlin (555694)
 4.00 Western Bros Cartoon. I Only Have Eyes For You (7554782) 4.10 The Video Pad. With the voice of Tim Brooke-Taylor (s) (4833051) 4.15 The Film. Game show (s) (8253781) 4.35 Addams Family (s) (CeeFax) (755491)
 5.00 Newsround (810526) 5.10 Ship to Shore. Last in the comedy drama series (CeeFax) (s) (8553856)
 5.35 Neighbours (s). (CeeFax) (s) (810743)
 6.00 Six O'Clock News (CeeFax) and weather (410)
 6.30 Regional news magazines (762)
 7.00 Commonwealth Games Grandstand. Desmond Lynam introduces live coverage of the men's 100m semi-finals plus the women's 100m semi-finals and 800m heats (s) (4304)
 8.00 EastEnders. (CeeFax) (s) (4330)
 8.30 Commonwealth Games Grandstand. The men's 110m hurdles final and a look back at the 100m semi-finals and the heats for the 800m (3865)
 9.00 Nine O'Clock News (CeeFax). Regional news and weather (8743)



Linford Christie, set to run in the 100m (9.30pm)

- 9.30 Commonwealth Games Grandstand. Live coverage of the men's 100m final. Plus the finals of the men's 400m and the women's 3,000m and a look back at the men's 110m hurdle final and the swimming heats (s) (5145168)
 1.30am approx Weather (4787183)
 2.45-3.15 BBC Select: Executive Business Channel. Scrambled (24521)

BBC2

- 6.45 Open University (4276946)
 7.30 Commonwealth Games Grandstand (s) (73556149)
 9.05 Thundercats (s) (4083762) 9.30 Why Don't You...? (s) (64830)
 10.00 Anytime Tales. The Hill and the Rock (2006897) 10.05 Playdays (s) (8305052) 10.30 Get Your Own Back (s) (1884878) 10.45 The O-Zone (s) (1872033)
 11.00 FILM: Dancing Lady (1933, b/w) starring Joan Crawford and Clark Gable. A musical romance featuring Fred Astaire in his screen debut. Directed by Robert Z. Leonard (42502)
 12.30 Rediscovery of the World (s) (7131655)
 1.20 Joshua Jones (s) (17886149) 1.30 Orville and Cuddles (s) (38549435) 1.35 Play Golf (s) (7238555)
 2.00 News (CeeFax) and weather followed by Kenzies - Mission of Death (2236) 2.30 See Hear (s) (CeeFax) (s) (323)
 3.00 News (CeeFax) and weather followed by A Week to Remember (b/w) (s) (8472255) 3.15 Summer Prizes (s) (CeeFax) (s) (8451491) 3.50 News (CeeFax). Regional news and weather (2556525)
 4.00 FILM: The Joy of Living (1935, b/w) starring Irene Dunne and Douglas Fairbanks Jr. A musical comedy directed by Tay Garnett (515526) 5.25 Tex Avery (b/w). One Cab's Family (9703385)
 5.35 Gardeners' World (s). (CeeFax) (s) (818385)
 6.00 FILM: The Adventures of Quentin Durward (1955) starring Robert Taylor. Sir Walter Scott's swashbuckling hero finds himself in the middle of a power struggle. Directed by Richard Thorpe (75107255)
 7.40 Sadhus - India's Holy Men. (CeeFax) (888920)
 8.30 Floyd on Italy. On the last stage of his grand tour Keith Floyd visits Sicily. (CeeFax) (s) (1507)
 9.00 The Real McCoy. Comedy sketch show. (CeeFax) (s) (7385)



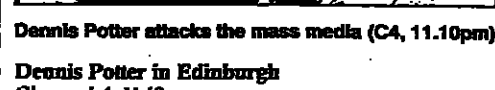
China's leader, Deng Xiaoping (9.30pm)

- 9.30 The People's Dictator. (CeeFax) (70472)
 10.20 Malcolm McLaren's Sounds of Paris (s) (322743)
 10.30 Newsnight. (CeeFax) (528878)
 11.15 Over the Edge: It's My Decision. A drama performed by a group of people from Shropshire with learning difficulties. (CeeFax) (s) (731433)
 Wales: Linda Mitchell
 11.45 Le Chateau. A short film (583052)
 11.55 Weather (831855) 12.00-12.30am Deaf-blind Education in Russia (87811)

- VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCode
 The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder to record a particular programme. For more details on the Video PlusCode system, see the Video PlusCode guide on page 10. For more details on the Video PlusCode system, see the Video PlusCode guide on page 10. For more details on the Video PlusCode system, see the Video PlusCode guide on page 10.

CHOICE

The People's Dictator
 BBC2, 9.30pm
 Reporter Julian O'Halloran, who witnessed the Tiananmen Square massacre, presents a 90th birthday profile of the man who authorised it, Deng Xiaoping. The Chinese leader looks deceptively benign these days, but O'Halloran reveals that his ruthlessness is well documented. He was active in the 1950s purge of so-called 'Rightists' and in 1987 planned a brutal suppression of Peking students which was quashed by his Public Security Minister. Baroness Thatcher described him as 'cruel', but Sir Edward Heath has a grudging admiration for his economic reforms. Indeed O'Halloran suggests that he was not for Tiananmen Square. Deng might have gone down in history as a great leader.



Dennis Potter attacks the mass media (CA, 11.10pm)

Dennis Potter in Edinburgh
 Channel 4, 11.10pm
 This is a welcome opportunity for the late Dennis Potter's brilliant work on television and the media as delivered at the 1993 James MacTaggart Memorial Lecture in Edinburgh. The speech is broadcast in its entirety, reminding us of the writer's healthy outspokenness and devastating rhetorical skill. "Our television has been ripped apart and fearfully reassembled by politicians who believe that value is a monetary term only," he lamented. "The time is near when we must save not the BBC from itself but the public service broadcasting from the BBC." For Potter the situation was the more tragic given that "when I first saw television in my late teens, it made my heart pound".

Sadhus: The Living God
 BBC2, 7.40pm
 The eye-opening series on India's holy men continues with a profile of Jayadrtha Saraswati, a sadhu who owns only a saffron robe, a bowl and a sacred wood but is one of the most powerful men in the country. The film captures an historic point in his ascendency: 1993 saw the 100th birthday of his guru, Parmacharya, celebrated with a Hindu ritual in which gold coins are poured over the great one's head. But when the guru stepped into deep meditation, it was Saraswati who became the focus of devotion. At the end of 1993 he became spokesman for the four great Pontiffs of Hinduism and the death of Parmacharya in 1994 has left him a hugely influential spiritual and political figure.

Out
 Channel 4, 9.00pm
 The gay and lesbian magazine show takes a look at life in the former Czechoslovakia, showing how homosexuals began to come out in the post-Cold War period. Lesbian Karla Hyankova admits "I don't realise we were so many". Previously a nun, reasoning that "there was no other community for me in this straight world", she joined a mainly male gay organisation after the Velvet Revolution. She was shocked, however, to find that of the five women who turned up for a meeting none admitted to being lesbian and four claimed to be transsexual. "I could not imagine how a woman attracted to a woman should think it so abnormal that she needed to change her sex."

SKYNEWS
 News on the hour.
 6.00am Sunrise (858556) 6.30am Beyond (858556) 7.00am News (858556) 7.30am News (858556) 8.00am News (858556) 8.30am News (858556) 9.00am News (858556) 9.30am News (858556) 10.00am News (858556) 10.30am News (858556) 11.00am News (858556) 11.30am News (858556) 12.00am News (858556) 12.30am News (858556) 1.00am News (858556) 1.30am News (858556) 2.00am News (858556) 2.30am News (858556) 3.00am News (858556) 3.30am News (858556) 4.00am News (858556) 4.30am News (858556) 5.00am News (858556) 5.30am News (858556) 6.00am News (858556)

CARLTON

- 6.00 GMTV (1233323) 8.25 C.O.P.S. (4070052) 9.50 The New Adventures of He-Man (5978830)
 10.20 News headlines (5621588) 10.25 London Today (Teletext) and weather (9620858)
 10.30 FILM: Laker Girls (1989) starring Tina Yothers, Pam Vaughan and Erin Gray. Drama about the lives of three young women members of a dance troupe. Directed by Bruce Seth Green (5620255) 12.20 London Today (Teletext) and weather (7507304)
 12.30 News (Teletext) and weather (3943052)
 12.55 Emmerdale (s) (Teletext) (8328743) 1.25 Home and Away (Teletext) (16354675)
 1.55 Good Advice. Comedy series about a marriage counsellor with marital problems of his own. Starring Shelley Long (s) (4184958)
 2.20 Russell Grant's All Star Show. The quest is across Stephanie Beacham (73073491)
 3.20 News (Teletext) (1382052) 3.25 London Today (Teletext) and weather (1381323)
 3.30 Newsline (s) (1385762) 3.40 Tote TV (s) (2011655) 3.50 Twisted. The Dream. Series (2057149) 4.00 Taz-Mania (s) (1056380) 4.15 Halfway Across the Galaxy (s) (9249101) 4.40 Children's Ward (s) (Teletext) (s) (3348174)
 5.10 After 5. (Teletext) (3566323)
 5.40 News (Teletext) and weather (262255)
 5.55 Your Shout. Video viewpoint (602965)
 6.00 Home and Away (s) (Teletext) (878)
 6.30 London Tonight. (Teletext) (830)
 7.00 Emmerdale. (Teletext) (9138)
 7.30 Metroland: A Miracle in Regent's Park. Sarah Woodside's film about the Open Air Theatre in Regent's Park (s) (994)
 8.00 The Bill: Theatre and Promises. When a man is stabbed witnesses are too scared to co-operate. (Teletext) (9526)
 8.30 Take Your Pick. Game show. (Teletext) (s) (8033)

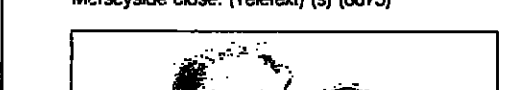


Judy Brooke as a transplant patient (9.00pm)

- 9.00 Medics. Julie's (Judy Brooke) prognosis is not good. (Teletext) (s) (5656)
 10.00 News at Ten (Teletext) and weather (53236) 10.30 London Tonight (Teletext) and weather (708930)
 10.40 Just a Minute. Game show (s) (381878)
 11.10 Capital Live: Proud. Drama starring Christopher Fulford and Tracey Whitwell (s) (440101)
 11.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (132255)
 12.40am The Beat (s) (4957144)
 1.40 Nigel Mansell's IndyCar 94 (s) (2239453)
 2.00 FILM: No Road Back (1957, b/w) starring Sid Homer, Margaret Rawlings and, in his feature film debut, Sean Connery. Drama about a blind and deaf woman who turns to receiving stolen jewels in order to send her son to medical school. Directed by Montgomery Tully (1137569)
 3.30 America's Top Ten (s) (71057)
 4.00 The Little Picture Show (s) (32415)
 5.00 Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (s) (19182)
 5.30 ITN Morning News (25368). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.35 Little Dracula. Cartoon (s) (148694)
 7.00 The Big Breakfast (9675)
 9.00 Puggall (s) (30385) 9.30 Wish Kid (s) (5991052)
 9.55 Saved by the Bell. American high school comedy series (s). (Teletext) (5978743) 10.25 Dog City. Adventures of a canine detective (s) (3245743)
 10.50 Raiders of the South Seas. Children's drama (s) (589565) 11.20 Terrytoons. Classic cartoons (7233558) 11.45 Super Mario World (s) (3427149)
 12.00 Pushing the Limits. The first of a ten-part series focuses on Fraser Black, a former London estate agent now one of Hawaii's best big-wave surfers (s) (50149)
 12.30 Sesame Street (s) (16410) 1.30 Katie and Orbie. The story of a little girl and her alien friend (83855)
 2.00 FILM: Anna Karenina (1935, b/w) starring Greta Garbo and Fredric March. Classic version of Leo Tolstoy's romantic tragedy about a married 19th-century Russian woman whose passionate affair with an army officer ends in tragedy. Directed by Clarence Brown. (Teletext) (214217)
 3.45 Pete Smith Specialties (b/w). Comedy short from 1951 starring David Barclay and Bill Goggin as insurance investigators (206878)
 3.55 Crawshaw's Watercolour Studio. Painting Danish beach in a late summer afternoon, before a storm and in winter mist (s) (892994)
 4.30 Countdown. From today, play Countdown with The Times and win up to £1,000 a day (see Section 1, page 5). (Teletext) (s) (255)
 5.00 Oprah Gold. The guests are families of which all members are gay (s) (Teletext) (8425052)
 5.50 Deputy Dawg. Cartoon (892588)
 6.00 Batman. The dynamic duo battle with the Penguin (Teletext) (120)
 6.30 Rocco's Modern Life. Episode three of the six-part story of a woolly wallaby (472)
 7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) and weather (156052)
 7.50 The St. Viewers' soapbox (310052)
 8.00 Classic Cars. Part four looks at cars that are valuable and includes a look at an auction for classic cars (s) (Teletext) (7168)
 8.30 Brookside. Topical soap set in a suburban Merseyside close. (Teletext) (s) (6675)



Czech mates for lesbian Karla, left (9.00pm)

- 9.00 Out. (Teletext) (s) (5626)
 10.00 Upstake On Your Collar. Episode two of the six-part Dennis Potter drama about sexual awakening set at the time of the Suez crisis. Starring Gyles Thomas, Louise Gormaine and Ewan McGregor (s) (Teletext) (s) (8333878)
 11.10 Dennis Potter in Edinburgh (s) (427830)
 12.30am The Bridge. Episode seven of the eight-part Dennis Potter drama set in a small town in the Netherlands. In Dutch with English subtitles (s) (8456278)
 1.25 Next Stop Hollywood: Once in a Blue Moon. The story of a reclusive rock 'n' roll fan and a fallen angel. Starring Shawn Medall and Sue Gaea. Directed by Charley Lang (5538811). Ends at 2.00

RADIO 1

- FM Stereo. 4.00am Bruno Brookes 6.30am Graham 9.00am Simon Mayo 12.30pm Newsline 12.45pm 1FM Roadshow, live from Singapore Park, Swansea 2.00pm Good Groove 4.00pm Surfers 7.00pm Evening Session 8.00pm The Story of Pop. All the hits since 1955. A celebration of James Brown 10.00pm Mark Radcliffe 12.00-4.00am Lynn Parsons

RADIO 2

- FM Stereo. 6.00am Martin Kahner 7.30am Sarah Kennedy 9.30am Ken Bruce 11.30am Jimmy Young 2.00pm Lorraine 3.30pm Ed Stewart 5.00pm John Dunn 7.00pm We Stayed in with Jung and Parker. From the Edinburgh Fringe Festival 7.30pm Hove Over Board 8.00pm Don't Bore Me 10.00pm Mr Finchley Takes the Road (s) 10.30pm The Jamiesons 12.00pm Steve Madden 3.00-4.00am Alex Lester

RADIO 3

- 5.00am Morning Reports 6.00am The Breakfast Programme, including at 6.25 and 7.55 the 5 Live Racing Preview, and at 7.15am the Commonwealth Games Preview, and at 8.15am the 5 Live News. News 12.00pm Middy with Mail, including at 12.30pm Moneycheck and 12.55pm Commonwealth Games Daily 2.05pm Race on Five 4.00pm John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00pm News Extra, including at 7.20pm the day's sport in 10.7.35pm The Tuesday Match: Blackburn v Tottenham. Live from 11.00pm News Extra, including at 11.45pm The Financial World 12.05am After Hours 2.00am Up All Night at the Commonwealth Games

WORLD SERVICE

- All times in BST. 4.30am BBC English 4.45am Newsline in German 5.00am Newsround 6.00am News in German 6.05am Newsround 6.27am News in German 6.30am Newsround 6.50am News in German 7.00am Newsround 7.15am The World Today 7.30pm Radio 3 8.00am World News 8.15am On the Shelf: The Rainbow 8.30am News 8.45am Newsline 9.00am World News 9.10am News of Faith 9.15am Concert Hall 10.00am World News 10.05am Newsline 10.15am Newsline 10.30am Newsline 10.45am Newsline 11.00am Newsline 11.10pm Newsline 11.15pm Newsline 11.30pm Newsline 11.45pm Newsline 12.00am Newsline 12.15pm Newsline 12.30am Newsline 12.45pm Newsline 1.00am Newsline 1.15am Newsline 1.30am Newsline 1.45am Newsline 2.00am Newsline 2.15am Newsline 2.30am Newsline 2.45am Newsline 3.00am Newsline 3.15am Newsline 3.30am Newsline 3.45am Newsline 4.00am Newsline 4.15am Newsline 4.30am Newsline 4.45am Newsline 5.00am Newsline 5.15am Newsline 5.30am Newsline 5.45am Newsline 6.00am Newsline 6.15am Newsline 6.30am Newsline 6.45am Newsline 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TUESDAY AUGUST 23 1994

Selectors rally to support

Atherton ready
to remain as
England captain

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

AFTER a day to recover from the most emotional weekend of his young life, Michael Atherton was last night ready to give Raymond Illingworth the news he, and most of the country, hopes to hear. He will make himself available to lead the England side to Australia this winter and, despite continuing misgivings on one corner of the selection table, he will be reappointed on Thursday with a show of unanimity.

In the immediate aftermath of Sunday's astonishing victory at the Oval, Atherton's innermost feelings were laid bare by a confusion of stress, fatigue and fulfilment. He wondered aloud if the captaincy was worthwhile and if his own problems would damage the team. Now, buoyed by a persuasive volume of support from the general public and the continuing faith of both Illingworth and the team manager, Keith Fletcher, his doubts have been dispersed.

He stayed in London yesterday, though not due to a long night of celebrations. "All I did when I left the ground was go to bed and sleep," he said. "It was a draining match, but a fantastic experience for all that." Now, as he prepares for the two Test matches to conclude the international cricket summer, Atherton is once more in positive mood and thinking ahead to the Ashes tour.

He has absorbed the reaction to his disciplinary troubles and some of it has pained him, but he has also learned that some adverse views can safely be ignored when the support of important and respected people is unwavering. It has been a chastening month for Atherton, but paradoxically, he may now emerge the better and stronger for it.

If, in his silent contemplation of life as England captain, Atherton required any further support, it was forthcoming yesterday. Fred Titmus, whose views on the leadership were hitherto a matter for speculation, stated that he would back

Atherton when the selectors meet in Birmingham tomorrow evening to identify their winter captain. Brian Bolus, the remaining member of the panel, declined to comment, but, as both Illingworth and Fletcher have already pledged that Atherton is their man, Bolus is most unlikely to rock the boat.

Titmus has long been an admirer of Mike Gatting, with whom he played for Middlesex in the latter stages of his long career. Yesterday, however, he explained his belief that Atherton should continue in the job.

"I have asked Keith Fletcher to tell Mike I am behind him,"

Wicket	PW	L	D	R	BI	PS
Warwickshire (19)	14	9	1	4	37	43/224
Leeds (18)	13	7	1	3	36	47/195
Nottingham (17)	14	7	4	3	30	46/187
Queens (16)	17	3	2	1	25	46/186
Surrey (15)	14	7	1	2	25	47/184
Somerset (14)	14	7	2	2	25	45/183
Essex (13)	14	6	3	2	25	41/175
Kent (12)	14	6	3	2	25	40/166
Gloucestershire (11)	14	6	3	2	25	40/161
Northants (10)	14	6	3	2	25	41/159
Gloucestershire (9)	14	6	3	2	25	40/144
Durham (8)	14	6	3	2	25	40/140
Lancashire (7)	13	5	4	2	21	40/138
Hampshire (6)	13	4	5	4	22	42/136
Warwickshire (5)	14	4	5	2	23	45/132
Worcestershire (4)	13	2	6	5	28	42/102
Gloucestershire (3)	13	1	7	5	28	37/79

Gloucestershire and Hampshire records include eight points for drawn matches in which scores finished level

Lancashire deducted 25 points because of unsatisfactory pitch

(1993 positions in brackets)

said Titmus. "There have been reports that we have had mixed feelings, but I will be disappointed if he does not lead the team to Australia. It is important for Mike to know we are behind him. He has shown a lot of character. I don't think his problems have been trivial things, but I certainly never thought they were hanging offences."

The opinion of Bolus will count for little if the other three support Atherton. He is known to favour the notion that Gatting should return to the captaincy he left amid disgrace and dishonour six years ago and to have expressed doubts about

Atherton's tactics and demeanour in recent weeks. Public support for Atherton, however, has never been stronger and Bolus will, eventually, lend his name to a united front on the reappointment.

Warwickshire yesterday took an important step towards winning the Britannic Assurance county championship, and a possible clean sweep of the four main county competitions, when they beat Yorkshire by eight wickets at Scarborough. With four of their closest rivals losing in the same round of matches, they are now 29 points clear with three games to play.

Third-placed Nottinghamshire lost to Worcestershire by five wickets at Kidderminster and Surrey, who slipped to fifth, went down by an innings and 68 runs to Hampshire.

Shaun Udal, the Hampshire off-spinner who has been called up by England for the one-day internationals against South Africa later this week, took four of the last five Surrey wickets to fall in 75 minutes and finished with five for 137 and a match analysis of ten for 163. It was Surrey's third heavy defeat in succession.

Another bowler in contention for a place on England's tour of Australia this winter, Martin McCague, played a key role in Kent's 69-run win over Derbyshire. McCague returned 15 for 147, the best match figures of the season.

McCague bowled with pace and hostility to take six for 61 on a lifeless pitch and help to dismiss Derbyshire for 282 in their second innings. Barnett, with 69, and Vandrau, with a career-best 66, offered the main resistance, but both fell to superb catches.

Courtney Walsh, so often Gloucestershire's inspiration with the ball, cracked 31 off 17 balls, including three sixes off his opposite number, Mike Watkinson, to carry his side to a two-wicket victory over Lancashire at Old Trafford.

Illingworth smiles, page 38
Scoreboards, page 38



Zita Lusack, of England, displays poise on the beam on the way to winning a bronze medal at the Commonwealth Games. Games reports, page 36

Robson makes
unexpected
move to sign
Lineker

By PETER ROBINSON

IF IMAGINATION is a sign of a successful manager, then Bryan Robson may turn out to be as outstanding in that still-unfamiliar role as he was as a player. Already chasing a work permit for a little-known but potentially exciting forward, Jaime Moreno, Robson announced yesterday that he is hoping to provide the 20-year-old Bolivian with the perfect tutor: Gary Lineker.

If Robson's unexpected approach to the former England marksman is successful, then Lineker may move to Middlesbrough when his contract with the Japanese club, Grampus Eight, expires in December. Middlesbrough would then have two former England captains in their ranks.

Robson, the Teesside club's player-manager, now 37 and still settling in after his purely playing days with Manchester United, and Lineker, 34, who had been expected to see out his career playing in Japan's J-League. Between them, they have been capped 170 times.

"I've spoken to Gary's agent and told him that if Gary fancies a new challenge, I will be keen to talk to him," Robson said yesterday. "Gary may be rising 34, but he has so much quality that he would still be a big asset here. I know him well from our international days. He's a smashing bloke, a pedigree goalkeeper and I am offering him a new challenge which might just interest him."

Robson continued: "People may raise a few eyebrows about him coming to Middlesbrough, but this is a very ambitious club and he would be a big plus to our promotion hopes. I have asked to be kept informed of all developments. If Gary wants to finish in Japan, he might just fancy doing a job here at Ayresome Park." Or, indeed, the new £16 million, 30,000-seat stadium being built for the club to replace Ayresome Park next year.

Robson has already spent more than £2 million acquiring Nigel Pearson from Sheffield Wednesday, Neil Cox from Aston Villa, Clayton Blackmore from Manchester United and Alan Miller from Arsenal.

Norwich City were yesterday poised to pay Southampton

£1 million to acquire the services of Iain Dowie, the rumbustious Northern Ireland international. Dowie, 29, is out of contract at The Dell and is likely to be replaced by the Danish Barcelona forward, Ron Elshout, valued at £800,000 by the Spanish champions.

Andy Walker's return to Celtic will cost the Scottish premier division club £550,000, a transfer tribunal ruled yesterday. The decision was a big financial setback for Bolton Wanderers, who had valued the Glasgow-born striker at £2.2 million. Celtic had offered £250,000.

Ronnie Whelan, the Liverpool and Republic of Ireland international midfielder, is hoping to be named as the new manager of Bourne-mouth later this week.



Lineker: perfect tutor

Whelan, 32, has refused the offer of a new one-year contract at Anfield and was at Dean Court on Saturday to see Bourne-mouth's 2-1 defeat by Blackpool.

Ray Wilkins, Crystal Palace's summer signing from Queens Park Rangers, may be sidelined with a fractured bone in his foot for at least six weeks.

Wilkins sustained the injury during Palace's 6-1 defeat by Liverpool at Selhurst Park on Saturday.

Peter Beardsley is another who faces a spell out with injury with the season barely under way. His fractured cheekbone, sustained in an accidental collision with Leicester City on Sunday, is likely to require three weeks to heal.

Gatting's plunder offers timely reminder

By SIMON WILDE

NORTHAMPTON (final day of four): Northamptonshire (24hrs) beat Middlesex (6) by six wickets

AMID the euphoria of England's brilliant victory at the Oval, it would be easy to overlook those who might have contributed to it but did not. One of them, Mike Gatting, who was left out by England on the morning of the match, made sure yesterday he would not be forgotten by becoming the first English batsman for 45 years to score three double-centuries in the same season.

In doing so, Gatting, who was playing for Middlesex at Northampton, put down another sizeable stone on the road he is attempting to pave to

Australia, where he would dearly like to spend this winter helping his country regain the Ashes.

Gatting, 37, who last played Test cricket 14 months ago, would not pretend that the circumstances in which he made his runs were the most demanding. The pitch and short boundaries on one side of the ground were heavily weighted in favour of the batsmen — the match produced a record aggregate of 1,536 runs for the ground — and John Hughes, the Northamptonshire opening bowler, did not bowl yesterday because of injury.

He did, though, survive a testing duel with Ambrose, the West Indies fast bowler, who took two early wickets when Middlesex batted again on Saturday afternoon 64 runs behind

and was pushing hard for a further breakthrough until into the second hour of play yesterday.

Gatting resumed on 80 not out, but almost did not survive the first over. He hit his second ball to square leg, where Lamb put down a difficult chance. After that, though, he showed not a blemish as he and Carr, who escaped a missed stumping to hit his second hundred of the game, added 218 runs at almost six runs an over.

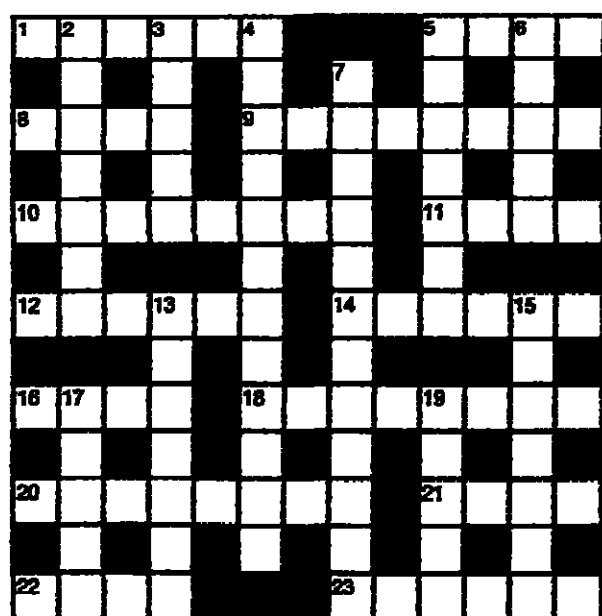
Gatting's declaration 20 minutes after lunch was nicely timed both in terms of his personal milestone and the match. He left Northamptonshire to score 305 off what proved to be 64 overs and they got home by six wickets when Bailey, who scored an unbeaten 129 from 116 balls, hit the last scheduled ball for four.

The last English batsman to score three double-centuries in a domestic season was Sir Leonard Hutton in 1949. The last batsman from any country was Alvin Kalicharman, the West Indian, playing for Warwickshire in 1982.

Gatting hit 224 not out against England A in April and 225 against Leicestershire in June, but yesterday's was comfortably the fastest of the three innings: he faced only 242 balls and struck 31 fours and a six, lifting himself in the process to first place among English batsmen in the averages with 1,539 runs at 73.27. Dion Nash, 22, the New Zealand all-rounder, will join Middlesex next season on a two-year contract, replacing Desmond Haynes as the county's overseas player.



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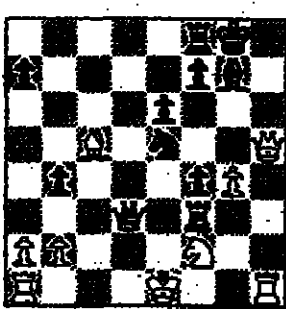


- ACROSS
- Expose pretensions (6)
 - Ancient astrologers (4)
 - Undomesticated (4)
 - Hard, plain, crisp biscuit (8)
 - Unit of chemical compound (3)
 - Displace (4)
 - Hip-bone cradle (6)
 - Off the right path (6)
 - Brother of Cain (4)
 - Actor's musician's rest (8)
 - Alloy of proverbial hardness (4,4)
 - Scheme: piece of ground (4)
 - Chemical element: clue (4)
 - Metrical foot, long-short-short (6)
- DOWN
- Typical example (7)
 - Beyond what is appropriate (5)
 - Promote out of the way (4,8)
 - Recognise with difficulty: pretend (4,3)
 - Estimate (5)
 - No longer sympathetic (eg of judge) (4,5)
 - In the form of a spiral (7)
 - Defence: expression of regret (7)
 - William —, visionary poet and painter (5)
 - Subject for debate (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 247
ACROSS: 1 Facility 7 Chide 8 Convivial 9 Hop 10 Ship 11 Aghast 13 Cinder 14 Subtle 17 Murrain 18 Pile 20 Duo 22 Confirmed 23 Moist 24 Be mother
DOWN: 1 Focus 2 Condition 3 Loin 4 Twinge 5 Bight 6 Scrape 7 Clear up 12 Refract 13 Condemn 15 Triumph 16 Nuance 17 Movie 19 Elder 21 Giro

This position is from the game Portmann - Kaenel, Germany 1994. The black forces are swarming around the white king so it is not surprising that he can force a quick win. How did Black continue?

Solution, page 38
Raymond Keene, page 8



By Philip Howard

LABEY
a. Wrap
b. Musical instrument
c. Egyptian bean

NIOFO
a. Australian palm
b. Swamp land
c. Hallucinogenic snuff

BORAK
a. Teasing
b. A Muslim trader
c. Levantine savoury pastry

FRIAGEM
a. Head massage
b. Cold weather
c. Summer festival

Answers on page 38

1 I SAVED £96
Mr D. L. Jones

1 I SAVED £107
Mr R. C. Smith

1 I SAVED £120
Mr A. G. Brown

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